

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATHS.

At 9 p.m. on the 16th inst., at her residence at the Peak, EMMELINE FLORENCE, the beloved wife of N. K. DAVIDSON, aged 34 years.

On Easter Sunday, at the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, JOSEPHINE, the dearly beloved wife of HARRY HALTON FOX, of H.M. Consular Service in China, aged 23 years.

MARRIAGE.

At St. John's Cathedral, on the 12th inst., by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, J. F. ARTHUR HASTINGS, R.N., to HILDA BEATRICE MAST.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The American mail of the 15th March arrived per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 13th April (29 days); the English mail of the 16th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 13th April (28 days); the German mail of the 7th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 17th April (41 days); and the English mail of the 26th March arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 17th April (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.M.S. *Sandpiper* has returned to her station on the West River.

The Singapore Legislative Council on the 10th inst., voted \$20,000 for help to the famine-stricken in India.

According to the *Japan Mail*, the Japanese Government has decided to station a second-class Consul at Masambo.

H.M.S. *Edgar*, with time-expired crews from the fleet, is expected to leave Hongkong for home to-day or Monday next.

Information has been received that Hongkong, Canton and ports in Manila and Formosa have been declared infected by the authorities at Shanghai.

It is reported from Seoul that the Corean Government has granted the application of the British Minister to connect by telegraph Wiju and Unsan, where Mr. Pritchard Morgan recently obtained a gold mining concession.

Temporary offices for the Seoul-Fusan Railway Co. have been opened in the Japanese Consulate, Fusan, and the surveying of the line, commenced on the 16th ult., is progressing rapidly. It is expected that the whole work will be finished by September next.

A letter from Foochow says that the French are having all their work to keep their hold on the Arsenal, the Chinese being very anxious to close it, on the ground that the expenses are more than the province can stand. The Tartar General is Commissioner of the Arsenal, and its maintenance does not suit his pocket at all.

It has been officially announced at St. Petersburg that the first section of the Transbaikal division of the Siberian Railway has been completed and by the middle of the coming summer there will be through communication by rail and steamer between St. Petersburg and Vladivostock, a distance of 6,372 miles. It is estimated that the run can be made in twenty-four days.

It appears, says *The Straits Times*, that the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. has submitted to the American Government a claim for exclusive landing rights in the Philippine Islands based on certain concessions granted by Spain. The Telegraph Company has also presented a claim for compensation on account of expenses in repairing the cables between Manila and Iloilo, cut by Admiral Dewey.

Confirmatory despatches have been received from Peking by the Shanghai mandarins of the return of Viceroy Liu to the Liangkiang Vicereignty. Liu is said to have had his farewell audience of the Empress Dowager on the 7th instant. It is also stated, says *The North China Daily News*, that in one of the first audiences the Viceroy had, the Empress Dowager commanded him to use every means at his command to "wipe out" the Reform Party within his jurisdiction. To this H.E. is said to have replied that it would be almost an impossible task, "for if one can prohibit open speech for a short time only it is impossible to prohibit the people from thinking what they wish." The result of the audience seems to have been that Viceroy Liu was allowed to do what he thought best in dealing with the situation.

It is reported from Nanking that the Viceroy's Yamen there has received telegraphic advice, dated the 5th inst., from Peking, to the effect that Liu Kun-yih has been ordered to resume his former position as Viceroy of Kiangnan Provinces and on the 6th inst. another despatch was received to the effect that Liu Kun-yih would receive "various instructions" from the Government on the 7th inst. and on the 9th would leave Peking for Nanking. It is also reported that Chen To Pei, the former President of the Kiangnan Military College, who is now in Peking in attendance on Liu Kun-yih, has been appointed commander of that branch of Jung Lu's army called the Wu Wei which is to be stationed in the Southern provinces to guard various important ports.

The exodus of Chinese coolies engaged by Russians for railway and other works in Lioutung and Manchuria, says *The Peking and Tientsin Times*, is tremendous just now. "Russia would confer a boon on North China generally if she would buy up the unemployed Boxers around here, but we fear they expect to make more than \$6 a month."

The Newchwang correspondent of *L'Echo de Chine* announces that the Liao river was open on the evening of the 23rd ult. and that the first boat, the *Koyo Maru*, consigned to Messrs. Bandinel, entered the port about noon, but was compelled to retire on account of the huge masses of floating ice which were coming down. Thick fogs are also stopping the steamers. The same correspondent announces the departure on the 2nd inst. of Mrs. Hosie to join her husband, Consul Hosie, at Vladivostock, on his overland journey.

The Foochow correspondent of *The North China Daily News* writes on the 9th inst.:— "If France is busy in her endeavours to establish her influence in South China, Japan is scarcely less so, in this province at any rate. We have read lately of some Japanese getting into trouble with the natives on the western border of Fukien, while surveying the country for a projected line of railway between Foochow and Kinkiang, and then we find in the *Japan Mail* reference made to some notes, published in the *Jiji* by Mr. Shiga Juko on his recent tour in Fukien, which by the way were particularly interesting. Now we hear that the Japanese have surveyed the country between Amoy and Hinghua with a view to establishing railway communication between the two places, but whether this is correct or not I cannot say. That the Japanese are busy or at any rate greatly interested in this quarter is evidenced by the number of them to be seen daily about all of the better class and bearing the stamp of educated men. Dr. S. Goto, the chief of the Civil Affairs Bureau in Formosa, is here, though for what special purpose is not yet known. It may be that Japan merely wishes to advertise that the Min-Ché provinces are her sphere of influence in China."

The Straits Times gives an analysis of the Straits Trade Returns for 1899. From this it appears that this trade roughly, including bullion and specie, amounts to £53,000,000. With this our contemporary compares that of the Dominion of Canada amounting to £61,000,000; New South Wales, £52,000,000; Victoria, £23,000,000; and, to come nearer home, British India seaborne trade, £210,000,000; and Ceylon, £12,000,000. Under the heading of Gross Trade, the imports of merchandise and specie furnished 293 million dollars, an increase of 34 millions; and the exports 249 millions, an increase of 27 millions; or, when the specie and bullion are taken away, imports come up to 255 millions and exports to 225 millions, an increase of nearly 32 millions on each. The import value of merchandise 255 million dollars, is made up of 195 millions for Singapore, 59 millions for Penang, and nearly 2 millions for Malacca, the Singapore increase being nearly 24 millions, and the Penang increase over 8 millions. The export value of merchandise 225 million dollars, is made up of 165 millions for Singapore, 58 millions for Penang, and over 2 millions for Malacca, the Singapore increase being nearly 24 million dollars, and the Penang increase nearly 8 millions.

RUSSIA AS FINANCIAL FACTOR.

(Daily Press, 13th April.)

When Lord BEACONSFIELD purchased on behalf of Great Britain the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal, and made the State a partner in an industrial enterprise, he little reckoned that he was inaugurating a new phase in history, that before twenty years were over the state whose progress he had in his mind's eye would faithfully follow his example, and that Russia, whose ambition it was one of the great objects of his life to frustrate, would be attempting to carry into finance those principles of universal aggressiveness which had made her a formidable competitor in the arts of war. Time, however, gives birth to strange transformations; and certainly the strangest of these is to be found in the new policy of Russia in Asia. Short, however, as is the period during which she has essayed this new departure, she has already become a factor which we cannot afford to despise; and it is doubtful in which capacity, military or commercial, Russia is now the more formidable. This latest development is of but a few years' standing, and may be said to have owed its possibility to the good offices of France. When after the war with Germany France found herself isolated in western Europe, she instinctively turned to Russia. That Power, herself not overpleased with the progress that Germany was making, extended her sympathy, which finally led up to an understanding between the two countries. As the Triple Alliance between Germany, Italy and Austria grew stronger, the entente between Russia and France also grew in cordiality. But Russia had other aims in view besides helping France in her crusade against Germany; and this she soon showed in a way not altogether unheard of in private circles. As a Power, Russia is not addicted to giving her friendship for nothing, and the present case was no exception to her rule. Russia's financial position was none of the best, so she made use of her newly found friend to assist her in putting things in order. Individually the French were rich, and in return for Russia's good offices, a loan was easily raised sufficient to enable Russia to begin to set her house in order. Russia made good use of the opportunity; she reformed her currency, consolidated her loan, and set herself to encourage industrial enterprise of every description. The result may be described as marvellous; under the fostering hand of the Government manufactures began to spring up on all sides, and the country which had previously been entirely dependent on foreign nations began to discover that it could not only manufacture for itself, but was in a position to compete for the trade of the world. Russia set herself more particularly to develop her newly acquired territories in Asia, and, surrounding them with an impenetrable cordon of customs dues, succeeded in shutting out all competitors. This policy was materially advanced by the construction of trunk-lines of railway, with the result that over and above merely paying her way, Russia found herself growing in wealth. The use she has made of this wealth is peculiar to herself. There is no indication that she has abated one jot her old ambition of becoming the mistress of a Russian Asia; but her methods have undergone a change, as remarkable as unexpected. She has found it simpler and more profitable to exchange the empire of the sword for that of the purse—not that she has at all omitted to keep up, on a perhaps vaster scale than ever, her

armaments, naval and military—but her main weapon of offence is now the purse rather than the sword. Notoriously is this the case in China, where in her Russo-Chinese bank she has established a formidable agency. Although the Bank is nominally a private concern, it is well known it is in a position to avail itself of all the credit of the state, and is thus able to outbid its rivals wherever Russia is interested in the result. One of the first efforts of the new organisation, it may be remembered, was immediately on the conclusion of the Japan war, when Russia had certain little matters to arrange with regard to Shingking, to offer a loan to China on terms which the other Powers could not touch; and this, it may be remembered, not only gave Russia the desired opening in Shingking, but also provided her with a weapon which she found it possible to use in controlling the issue of the remainder of the loan. Since that her financial operations have grown in number and importance, and always with the one object; that of hindering the countries which have once accepted accommodation from her in their dealings in the open market, and more especially with England. Russia has long had her eye on Persia, whose exploitation would afford her an important means of approach to the sea, and besides would enable her at her will to annoy the British Government in India. Ever since the beginning of the century both nations have struggled with varying effect to hold the supreme influence in Persia. On the whole England has well preserved her position, and hitherto has prevented the absorption of any territory which would afford her rival her long-coveted access to the Persian Gulf. Of late, however, Russia has been beginning to vary her tactics; and the latest move has been to negotiate a loan on such apparently favourable terms that an English financier has been in a position to compete. Here again the Russian has enjoyed an advantage denied to the other; the Russian Government formally guarantees the loan, which thus becomes a matter of Imperial Finance. Meanwhile the game is being merrily carried on in China, where the Bank is ready to support every scheme tending to the advantage of Russia. The appearance of the Russo-Chinese Bank in the pretended Belgian Syndicate is a case in point; there is no doubt that the scheme was entirely Russian, but Russia, for reasons of her own, preferred to adopt the pseudonym of a Belgian association; at all events the scheme has given her a practical means of access to the valley of the Yangtsze, and thus strengthened her hand in any future partition of China. Of less importance, but still not to be passed over without suspicion, is the last move of Russia in offering a loan to Corea. The financial position of the peninsula is of the worst, and the opportunity of effecting a loan on apparently easy terms is undoubtedly a great temptation. Corea has been in the market, it may be said, semipermanently, but with little success; she is not so foolish as not to understand the object of her big neighbour in inviting her into his little parlour; but three millions are three millions, and Corea is very much in want of the money. That Japan should feel much exercised over the matter is but natural, but the difficulty of this new method of invasion is that, while it is equally effective with the ancient method of employing brute force, it leaves no door for remonstrance open. Japan is equally at liberty to make Corea her debtor, but Japan has had some little experiences of Corea's monetary ways, and does not like to become involved a second time. Here Russia has

an enormous advantage in the game, for there is nothing that would give her greater satisfaction than that Corea should be a defaulter. Three millions of Yen would be well expended in reducing Corea to the position of an humble dependent on her generosity.

THE OPENING OF YOCHOW.

(Daily Press, 16th April.)

In our issue of the 5th inst. we gave a summary of a leading article taken from the *North China Daily News* on the opening of Yochow. Yochow, our readers will remember, is the port opened by the British Minister in Hunan. As we said at the time, there is much that is interesting in this article, but there are at the same time certain views expressed from which we are compelled to dissent. The *Daily News* quotes its correspondent's opinion that the opening of Yochow, or what passes for Yochow, can only be regarded as a magnificent practical joke, but goes on to say that it is pleased to find that this is not the case. We are quite in accord with the correspondent's opinions and are quite at variance with the views expressed in the latter part of the leader where we are informed that "what in many respects is the finest province in China is now practically thrown open, and it remains for foreign merchants to take every advantage they can of the opportunity." We, of course, have no objection to the foreign merchant taking every advantage he can of the opportunity thus presented to him, but the only thing is that there is not, nor will there be, under existing circumstances, any opportunity for him to take advantage of. The opening of Yochow practically means this. A small area of unpopulated land, just within the border of Hunan, is set apart as a place where foreign imports can be landed on payment of a tariff duty, and native produce destined for export abroad can be shipped also on payment of one duty. Outside this particular area both will be subject to the same duties as if the port had never been opened, i.e. either *lekin* or transit dues at the merchants' option. As no imports will be consumed within that area (there being no population to buy them), and as no exports produced within it, and as consequently sooner or later both imports and exports will be called upon to pay the duty and a half, it is somewhat difficult to see what benefit is to be derived from paying duties at Yochow which could as well and even better be paid at Hankow—for at least in the latter place the actual owners of the goods do reside, which is not the case with the former; while with regard to the carriage by steam of the internal trade of China, which is really what is required to develop the buying capacity of the nation, the opening of the port is a distinct disadvantage! This was very ably pointed out by Mr. BYRON BRENNAN in his trade report for Canton, 1897, and we commend this to our readers' notice. It appears that at Yochow a *lekin* station has been established within a hundred yards of the Customs House and goods have only to be cleared at that station to be free from any stoppage or exaction of any kind to beyond Siangtan. This, says the *Daily News*, is a very notable concession, and shows the liberal spirit in which the Hunan Authorities have met the establishment of an open port at Chenglin (Yochow). Concession it is not, but a right already granted and provided for when the inland waters of China were declared to be open some two years ago. That declaration provided that Chinese and Foreign steamers

should be free to carry goods anywhere in the Empire of China; and yet, to get goods carried from Hankow to Changsha in Hunan, they are forced to be taken up to Yochow in one steamer, discharged there, declared at the *lekin* barrier and sent in another steamer to their destination. It is true that, as far as we are aware, it is the only case where any real attempt has been made to carry out the terms of the agreement, even in the restricted sense put upon it by the Chinese, and for this Mr. MORSE, the Commissioner, is justly congratulated by the *Daily News*, but the nature and effect of the restriction imposed does not appear to have struck our northern contemporary, as the leader referred to goes on to say that the natural course would seem to be that the new port of Yochow should be the depot from which large light-draft steamers should run with passengers and goods up the Siang river. On the contrary, we say it is no more the natural depot than would be the entrance of the Lyemoon Pass if the Government of this Colony forced all ships arriving from or going to Europe, to discharge and load *on* there; the goods and passengers to be brought to and from the City of Victoria in other vessels. Or if, instead of steamers going up to the City of Canton, they were stopped at the Blue Forts and compelled to transfer everybody and everything into other steamers which go thence up to Canton. And this due to no natural obstacle such as want of water, &c., but simply to arbitrary and obstructive regulations drawn up in the first place by Sir ROBERT HART and agreed to by the British Minister; the latter actuated, as we have often said, by an entirely mistaken idea of the nature of trade in China; and the former by an only too accurate knowledge of the way to stop what he is not, or thinks he is not, prepared to tackle.

The comparison we make is strictly applicable to the case of Yochow, and the foreign merchant has shown his appreciation of the fact and his common sense by not embarking any of his vessels in an undertaking which is bound to prove unprofitable, for the very simple reason that there will be no cargo for them to carry. The tea trade affords an excellent illustration. A very great deal of this comes down from Tungting Lake to Hankow but none under transit pass, which is proof positive either that *lekin* is cheaper than the transit dues, or else that some other counterbalancing drawback is attached to the pass. This tea can under existing circumstances be brought down the Lake to Yochow at its mouth, paying (theoretically) the same taxation as if *ju-k* borne. At Yochow it is all turned out of the steamer that brought it down and put into another one to be taken to Hankow. For this latter privilege a duty and a half will be levied on it as a contribution to the Imperial Treasury. This is what Sir ROBERT HART is pleased to term "keeping separate the Imperial and Provincial revenues." There is not the slightest doubt that it will be effe tual, but so effectual that we should be inclined to call it killing the goose that lays the golden eggs! Hankow is the proper and natural centre from which steamers should be allowed to run to the Tungting Lake—or anywhere else; simply because it is a large city and a large centre of trade. Until that is done the fact of opening what is practically a "bonded warehouse" of no great size at the mouth of the Lake, under the name of a treaty port in Hunan, will certainly do no good and will, we have no hesitation in saying, do a

deal of harm, inasmuch as it effectually stops direct steam traffic between the great cities of Changsha, Siangtan, and Hankow. In appreciation of this fact is largely gaining ground both at home and in the Far East, due to persistent and repeated representations made in the columns of this paper, and such men as Mr. WALTON and Sir THOMAS JACKSON, amongst others, have gone home fully impressed with the necessity of bringing it forcibly before the Government.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

(*Daily Press*, 18th April.)

We have before us a small pamphlet, entitled *Debates, Proceedings and Votes of the Shanghai Ratepayers in Public Meeting Assembled*, which presents some topics of interest to a Crown Colony as to the means which recommend themselves to a community which is almost untrammeled by governmental interference, and which has been left to work out its own salvation along the lines of least resistance. The first thing that strikes the reader is the orderly manner in which the debates are conducted, and the ready acquiescence of all in the rulings of the Chair. The meeting, probably a fair specimen of others, evidently entered on its task not only with a full knowledge of what it had come to discuss, but with a determination to permit each subject before it to be discussed on its merits; more than this, it showed the knowledge of constitutional practice, and a due regard for legal precedent, and the appeal made to its judicial faculty as to the legality of the action of the Municipal Council was met by a reference to past precedents bearing on the case. The topics under discussion included subjects of education and sanitation, such as seldom enter into merely municipal discussion, and it is worthy of remark that they were discussed, not from the narrow view of mere municipal finance, but as involving questions of statecraft, and on the wide principles which concern their bearing hereafter on a rising community, which feels that it has an important part to play in the future development of a great city, if not on the future of China. Still more remarkable is the fact that, although the native element is not directly represented at these meetings, the foreign residents are fully conscious of the duties they owe to the large native population amidst which they live, and evince no desire to shift their burdens on to the shoulders of their unrepresented fellow citizens. This conduct has met with appreciation, and won the confidence of the Chinese population. It has done even more, for in the Proclamation issued last year by the Viceroy of the Kiangnan Provinces, extending the government of the Settlements over a large additional area, this good government was made the ground for the concession. The strongest proof, however, of the general good management prevailing is that, whereas in the year 1890 the total revenue of the Municipality amounted to 462,000 taels, the Budget for the coming year as laid before the ratepayers amounted to 995,000 taels, or more than double within the short period of ten years. As part of the ordinary working of a large city, the Council, a small body of nine men annually elected, has to look after the lighting, maintenance and police of a city of upwards of three hundred thousand inhabitants, in itself no light task; but it has to do more, and this is the distinguishing feature of the situation. Shanghai is not a colony, yet it has to assume functions more especially belonging to a colony—such as providing for its own defence. Beginning its municipal existence as a city of refuge, when the whole of the lower valley of the Yangtse was in a state of rebellion and overrun by the hordes of the *taiping* insurgents, it has during its entire existence been a standing temptation to the surrounding elements of disorder. From long experience it has learnt the utter incapacity of the Chinese Government, however well affected, to afford it any assistance; but the Chinese Government has not always been well affected, and at various times the administration of the Settlements has had to show that it was prepared to defend its own. True, these occasions have been rare, and for the most part the provincial governments have worked in admirable accord with the municipality, but an occasional reactionary Viceroy has from time to time afforded indications that he would, did he dare, make the further existence of the Settlement impossible. From the instinct of self-preservation the community has ever found it necessary to uphold an efficient body of armed volunteers, and to provide them with the most approved arms and ammunition. Again Shanghai from being at one period of its existence a merely temporary resting-place, has now become the settled residence of many hundreds, if not thousands, of European families; it possesses a healthy climate and has already a large juvenile community growing rapidly into importance; and on its own shoulders rests the obligation of providing for their education. For the European portion of the population steps were taken a few years ago, and have proved eminently satisfactory; but over and beyond these children of European extraction, there are thousands of Chinese children who are being brought from year to year in closer contact with the higher civilisation, as well as becoming more pledged to local ties. Accustomed to the freer life under foreign rule, the rising generation of native settlers is becoming as much attached to its new home as the others, and is rapidly losing its singularity. The feeling of common citizenship is growing up in an unwonted soil, and a fusion of interests is bringing about a fusion of feeling; this feeling has been displaying itself lately in many ways. The ordinary opinion that the Chinaman as an individual is entirely without patriotism has in the Foreign Settlements been proved to be founded on a misconception, as he has evinced a very sympathetic interest in the affairs of the nation. Left free to have an opinion, he has not been backward in expressing it, and to a man native opinion is loyal to the Emperor. More especially is he at one with the Emperor's desire to improve the system of education, and this he displayed in a very practical and characteristic manner by offering to erect a school for the better education of the youth of the Settlements, if the Council would assist it in the same manner as it already does the present Public School for the education of the European youth. This proposal was brought up at the Meeting of the Ratepayers, and it is worthy of note, as indicating how sensible of their responsibilities are the ordinary voters, that the justice and expediency of the proposal were acknowledged without a dissenting voice, and the discussion turned on the practical issue as to how such a scheme could be brought to render the best effects. Amongst the other numerous questions which have to occupy the attention of the community are those connected with such usually extraneous matters to a municipality as railways, telegraphs,

tramways, telephones, etc. Their position as regards the community at large, a question usually devolving on the government of the State, has to be adjusted; the meeting had also to take in hand matters more or less international, as well as those relating to property, registration of land, etc. and all these, it will be noticed from a perusal of the report, were debated not only without temper, but with discretion. The most remarkable feature of all this is that the development has taken place on perfectly natural grounds, and without the intervention of any Foreign Power. The steps have in each case been taken in the first instance in conjunction with the native authorities, who have felt grateful to the Council for their active aid in preserving order, which they had not themselves the means to enforce; and the part taken by the Foreign governments has for the most part been confined to granting their sanction, after the preliminary work had been accomplished. The present condition of the Settlements cannot, indeed, be better exemplified than in the closing words of the Chairman, when summarising the events of the year. He said:—"In conclusion, gentlemen, I think we have every reason to be proud of the success which our Settlement has attained, and while it would be idle to deny that the responsibility of conducting our local government is becoming a heavier burden year by year, we can look forward to the future with confidence in the belief that those influences which have stood us in the past will long continue to be powerful—the influences of mutual co-operation and commonsense."

CABLE SCHEMES AND CANADA'S GAIERANCE.

(*Daily Press*, 17th April.)

"Doest thou well to be angry, Canada?" Any one who has followed the course of the recent negotiation with regard to the proposed Pacific Cable cannot but reply in the affirmative; and this he will do all the more decidedly should he chance to be a resident in China. It may be that Lord SALISBURY is preparing for us some of those good things which pass man's understanding; but if he be, the methods of the Government are strange and past finding out, and the last exhibition of weakness is by no means reassuring as to what is to come. Now we by no means would be taken to imply that the proposed cable from Africa, by Mauritius, to Western Australia is worthless, but we feel fully justified in the assertion that it is premature, and but a playing with the real needs of the Empire. It is doubtless true that, as far as the Colony of Victoria is itself concerned, a cable across the Indian Ocean is likely to be as effective as one across the Pacific; but more than this cannot be affirmed of it. It certainly, even as far as Western Australia is concerned, possesses no one advantage not shared by the other, while for our vast interests in the Pacific, in New Zealand, and in Asia at large, it is immeasurably inferior. The one advantage which it seemed to show over the other is, when we come to examine it, really illusory. The point which apparently caught the suffrages of the Government was that while the Government had itself to take in hand the construction and maintenance of the Pacific Cable, the Eastern Extension lines were ready in the other case to take the risk themselves. Now *ceteris paribus*, it is unadvisable for a government, when it can get a private association to undertake a work requiring a good amount of pecuniary responsibility, to attempt to inter-

fere, unless, of course, there are other reasons which may override the objection. On this we may remark that the pecuniary argument may fairly be left out of court; the Eastern Extension Companies have had great experience in the Australian traffic, and can gauge to a nicety the amount of traffic passing between Europe and Australia. Knowing this as they do, they have contracted to lay the line without guaranty; and we are justified in the assumption that the Company would not do this unless it felt that it could do so with perfect regard for the interests of the shareholders; to think otherwise would be to cast discredit on the wisdom, if not on the integrity, of the directors. But if a comparatively barren line, like that which it is proposed to lay across the Indian Ocean, be thus accepted as remunerative, what are we to think of a line with numerous feeders, such as eventually the Pacific Cable route must become? Even more—and here comes in the rub—the Pacific line in time to come must gather to itself the enormous coming traffic of all Eastern Asia. How profitable is that traffic we have only to turn to the published reports of the companies to see. *Engineering* gives a summary of the last half-year's working, which is interesting to quote. "The Eastern Telegraph Company," it states, "had an excellent half-year's business during the six months ending September 30th, 1899. The revenue of the half-year amounted to £474,950; and after deducting working expenses, and the outlay incurred for the repair and renewal of cables, and after providing for depreciation of spare cable, and income tax, £306,890 remained; increased to £310,426 by the balance brought forward from last year." This is good enough, but we learn further that, after paying a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, they carried £10,000 to the ship reserve, £5,000 to a removal reserve, £2,000 to an insurance reserve, £100,000 to general reserve, and carried over no less than £33,000 to next year's account. Now we by no means wish to detract in any way from the right of the Company to do what it thinks best with its own, but in these reduplicated "reserves" there is just a suspicion that the Company wants to throw a little dust in the eyes of the Government, and is doing its best to underrate its financial position. One of our greatest and best founded complaints, and in this we are in a like position to Canada, is that owing to the direction in which the lines are laid, we are cut off from any direct communication with America, and that all our messages to the States or Canada had to go first by a circuitous route to Europe, after which they had practically to come back one fourth the diameter of the globe. In this respect Canada is even in a worse position than ourselves; especially as regards Australia. Now Canada, recognising this, had offered to bear a very considerable portion of the cost—about one-third—and the British Government, after beating about the bush, had finally engaged to meet Canada by providing a like amount. The Governments likewise bound themselves to reduce the rates from the very oppressive rate at which originally, when as yet the lines were on trial, they were fixed. Up to this the Eastern Extension Companies had looked on, but, taking advantage of a suggestion thrown out on other grounds, they proposed to adopt part of the scheme and lay another cable across the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately the scheme thus proposed left the main part of the project—that of providing another line altogether English to India, on one side. The other great desideratum for which the Pacific Cable had been originally planned, namely, that of avoiding in the intercourse of the northern and southern colonies the necessity of having to traverse three-quarters of the globe, has likewise been dropped in the new scheme, which we learn has met with the approbation of the Home Government. Now Canada naturally complains, and with reason, that the withdrawal of the Government after its promise to Canada is a distinct breach of the faith, and it is difficult, looking at the affair with what knowledge we possess, to come to any other conclusion. Speaking for ourselves, though the pressure is not so direct, we have a clear right to protest against the volte face. Had imperial interests been likely to be in any way advanced, we could have found means to acquiesce in the change, but, so far from their being advantaged, there is very reason to believe that our Imperial interests are being ruthlessly sacrificed to advance those of a private concern; one which, however valuable service it may have done for the State, is yet in such a position financially that it is beyond the need of State aid.

THE NEW SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

(*Daily Press*, 16th April)

On Saturday afternoon was witnessed the realisation of a scheme which has long been dear to Major-General GASCOIGNE, our now Acting-Governor, and to a great number of the military officers of Hongkong. On that afternoon was opened a Soldiers' Institute on strictly non-sectarian lines, where social intercourse between men of the different regiments now or in the future to be stationed here will be possible, opportunities for rational recreation furnished, and alcoholic refreshment obtained in moderation. General GASCOIGNE modestly disclaimed having done very much of the hard work of arrangement, but his energy and singleheartedness in the matter is well known to all. He was on Saturday the mouthpiece of the officers, as he said, but he long ago made the idea his own. Institutions somewhat similar have, as our readers know, existed for long, but none on such generous lines as the new club in G Block, opposite Fletcher Street. It is intended that the Institute shall be a Soldiers' Club, in General GASCOIGNE's words, "on exactly the same footing as one of our officers' clubs, that is, that there are to be no restrictions except the restrictions which good taste, good feeling and good conduct always compel for the maintenance of any building." On the liquor question the General has always taken the strong position that, admirable as are teetotal principles there is a large majority of men perfectly able to enjoy "the good things of this life" in moderation, who under hitherto existing circumstances have been driven to undesirable localities in pursuit of what they have every right to ask for, and so have been tempted to excess of various kinds. The argument that they have their own canteens does not serve, for, to adopt the General's instance, it would be hard if a man who had come from Mount Austin into town were not allowed a glass of beer; and, moreover, canteens do not afford the opportunity of social intercourse and rational recreation at which the new Institute especially aims. The War Office when approached by General GASCOIGNE sanctioned the use of G. Block if it could be shown that an Institute was a positive want and that it would be no expense to the public. The want was proved to the full, and the generosity of the officers provided that the public should not

be called upon. It remains for the soldiers themselves to show, as we have no doubt they will, that they appreciate the gift and intend to use the means of drawing closer together, which has hitherto been denied them by the peculiarly scattered situation of the garrison of this island. Even were the Institute not to be patronised to the extent which is anticipated, General GASCOIGNE and the officers of our regiments would none the less have done a good work. But, as we have said, we do not doubt that the men will appreciate the gift and make the Club a flourishing institution.

TELEGRAM.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

ADMIRAL KEPPEL AT SINGAPORE.

SINGAPORE, 19th April.

THE HARBOUR RE-NAMED IN HIS HONOUR.

To-day a special *Gazette* was issued and a procession of war-ships took place on the occasion of the re-naming of New Harbour as Keppel Harbour, in honour of Admiral Keppel, who leaves to-morrow for England. The shipping was stopped. People were very angry, there being much trouble with charts. The majority of the town-people at Governor Swettenham's foolishness.

SUPREME COURT.

April 19th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE MURDER CASE.

The Attorney-General said he understood that a special jury had been granted on the application of the prisoner in the murder case, and as it would require some little time to get the jurors probably the most convenient day to take the case would be Monday. His learned friend Mr. Slade appeared for the prisoner, and Mr. Slade had asked him if he could get the case fixed for Monday. He had no objection if it would suit his Lordship.

It was decided to take the case on Monday.

NO APPEARANCE.

Wong Sing had been committed for trial, but allowed out on bail, for offering a bribe to a public servant with a view to influencing his conduct.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner was allowed out on bail, and he was told that morning that the man was not likely to appear. If that was so he should ask his Lordship to allow the bail to be escheated and to issue a bench warrant.

Wong Sing was called but there was no response.

His Lordship—This is the third case recently in which a person bailed has not appeared. What was the amount of the bail?

The Attorney-General—The sum deposited was \$500, which I should say was quite ample, seeing that the sum was only \$5.

His Lordship—I think the sum was quite ample.

His Lordship ordered the bail to be escheated, (the money having been deposited) and a bench warrant to be issued.

A WOMAN CHARGED WITH LARCENY.

A woman named Ng Kui was charged with stealing a quantity of clothing, the property of Loung Wo, of 189, Queen's Road, West. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. C. C. H. Schroter, A. F. de Jesus Soares, E. L. Jackson, A. B. Smith, W. F. Ford, G. Pemberton, and James Partington.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner at one time lived with a man who was not her

husband at prosecutrix's house at 189, Queen's road West, occupying a cubicle next to that occupied by the prosecutrix. On the morning of the 20th August last the prosecutrix left her cubicle and went to her work, locking the door. She left upon her bed a black box containing a considerable quantity of clothing. When she returned she found that the box had disappeared, her cubicle having evidently been entered by means of a ladder. In the evening all the inmates of the house returned with the exception of the prisoner, who had left several articles behind, and who, it turned out, had been seen carrying away a black box. The prosecutrix reported the theft to the police. On the second April the prosecutrix was in the Central Market buying some vegetables when she saw the prisoner, whom she took to the Police Station. Inspector Baker sent Constable Ritchie to the place where the prisoner was employed as amah and some of the stolen property was found on her bed.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced her to eight months' hard labour.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.

An Li was charged with (1) offering a bribe to a public servant with a view to incline him to do an act contrary to his duty and (2) offering a bribe to a public servant with a view to influence his conduct. He pleaded not guilty. The jury was the same as before.

The prisoner had offered Mr. Ross, of the Public Works Department, \$5, with a view to induce him to stay certain proceedings instituted against him under the Water Ordinance.

Inspector Macnab said that at about twenty past ten on the morning of the 14th March he was in his quarters at the Central Police Station when he saw Mr. Ross and the prisoner conversing. He could not hear what was being said. He saw the prisoner put his hand into his pocket and take out what appeared to be a paper note and give it to Mr. Ross, who at once called out to him, asking him to arrest the prisoner for endeavouring to bribe him with \$5. Witness arrested the prisoner.

In reply to the prisoner, witness admitted that when in the charge room the prisoner said he was offering the \$5 to Mr. Ross to pay the fine with.

The prisoner said he offered the money openly to Mr. Ross to pay the fine with. Had he been attempting to bribe Mr. Ross he would have gone to his house and offered the money to him privately.

The jury, after considering their verdict in private, found the prisoner not guilty by four against three.

His Lordship said that in civil cases a bare majority would suffice but in criminal cases a majority of five to two was necessary. He accordingly directed them to retire again.

After a further absence of 20 minutes the jury returned and the foreman announced that they found the prisoner not guilty by five to two, and he was therefore discharged.

The *North China Daily News* understands that the scheme for policing Pootung under the control of the Customs is practically settled. There are to be a foreign sergeant, four foreign constables, two mounted, and a number of native constables. Inspector Mellows of the River Police being in command of the whole force.

Yuan Shih-kai, Governor of Shantung, has issued a set of instructions to missionaries "obviously inspired by the shade of Dogberry," says *The North China Daily News*. A general protest against them has been made by the American missionaries, who were the first to appeal to their Minister at Peking. The gist of the scheme for the protection of the missionaries is as follows:—(1) Missionaries are to travel only when absolutely necessary, and only on important business. (2) When travel becomes necessary, in conformity with the previous clause, the missionary must procure a military escort from the local magistrate to ensure official responsibility for the missionary's safety. (3) Details as to the location of churches, their Chinese constituency, cost of construction, etc., must be furnished to the local officials in order to ensure the converts against molestation.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 12th inst. The Hon. R. D. Ormsby presided, and there were also present Lieut.-Col. Ryan, Dr. Clark, Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Lawson, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. A. F. Baddeley, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Acting Secretary).

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

The first item on the agenda was "Adjourned consideration of the report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1899."

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and that it be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary. It was a very interesting report, and he thought Mr. Ladds had taken a great deal of trouble in going into questions connected with the New Territory. No doubt the Government would fully consider the recommendations he had made in the report.

Dr. Lawson seconded and the motion was carried.

PLAQUE AND OVERCROWDING.

The discussion of a report on plague and overcrowding was postponed until the next meeting, on the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the CHAIRMAN.

A letter had been received by Dr. Clark from Mr. Osborne to the effect that if the discussion was postponed he intended proposing a resolution to the effect that the Board take one district at a time, commencing with No. 9 district.

CHINESE CEMETERIES.

The following letter, dated 30th March, was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary:—

"Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 25 of the 5th ult., forwarding for H.E.'s consideration copy of resolution adopted by the Sanitary Board at a meeting held on the 2nd ult. in which is advocated the closing of the Chinese Cemeteries at Mount Davis, Caroline Hill, and Matauwei, and the existing Plague Cemeteries in Hongkong, and the opening instead of a Chinese Cemetery and a Plague Cemetery on some island close to Hongkong and of another Chinese Cemetery and a Plague Cemetery further north of Matauwei; for reply I am to state for the information of the Board that there are various difficulties in the way of establishing a Chinese Cemetery on an island near Hongkong and I am to invite the Board's attention to the means of providing more burial space for Chinese dead by a recourse to the Chinese Custom of disintering and urning the bones of the dead, which was suggested in the Acting Colonel Secretary's letter to the Board No. 534 of the 25th March 1891.

"The Board's letter No. 39 of the 12th June, 1891, and the enclosures thereto show that the Board was then of opinion that under certain safeguards there was no sanitary objection to adopting the system referred to. If the Board is still of the same opinion, I am to suggest that the Board should depose four of its members (including two Chinese members) to confer with the acting Registrar General, who will in that case invite the Committee of the Tung-Wa Hospital to meet the members of the Board with a view to considering whether or not the system referred to can be availed of to meet the need of more burial space in all the Chinese Cemeteries mentioned in the resolution of the Board.

"I am to add that H.E. is of opinion that the Plague Cemetery at Kennedy town should be closed if possible, and I am to enquire whether the Board can suggest a new site for a Plague Cemetery on some portion of Mount Davis or at Sandy Bay."

THE PROPOSAL TO FORM A TRUST CORPORATION.

The following letter, dated March 30th, was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary:—

"Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Luggan's letter, No. 37 of the 3rd instant, forwarding by direction of the Sanitary Board a draft scheme for the formation of a Trust Corporation to be charged with the duty and invested with the power of carrying out sanitary improvements in the City of Victoria.

"In reply I am to state that, while His Excellency fully appreciates the excellent work

being done by the Sanitary Board and the anxious desire of that body for improved sanitation, he is not prepared to recommend the creation of a Trust to the Secretary of State, who has so lately decided against the proposal to grant municipal powers in the colony."

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion on the matter should also be left over until the next meeting, seeing that it was so intimately connected with overcrowding, and his suggestion was adopted.

Dr. HARTIGAN and Lieut.-Col. RYAN expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply, considering that the answer ought to have been more detailed.

ANALYST'S REPORT.

The analyst's report for the quarter was submitted. Some observations were made as to the report, Lieut.-Col. RYAN asking if whisky was considered by the Board as the only food and drug to be dealt with.

THE DAY OF MEETING.

A reply re the meetings of the Legislative and Executive Councils coinciding with the Sanitary Board meetings, was to the effect that in future the meetings would be held on Mondays as a rule.

THE PRAYA ORDINANCE.

The next item was "Adjourned discussion of the Buildings on Marine Lot 10 A, Praya Reclamation—lay-out yards and lane at back." It was suggested that in this case the Praya Ordinance should be departed from, and as the Chairman thought the departure would be an improvement it was sanctioned, on condition that no obstruction be placed at the entrance to the lane.

CLEANSING AND LIMEWASHING.

The following report of work done in connection with issuing warning notices concerning cleansing and limewashing was submitted.—

"Within the last 18 days (i.e. since the introduction of these new notices) we have only been able to obtain about 300 names of owners from the Land Office. The total number of notices served up to noon on the 4th April was only 176. The total number of houses in the Central District of the city is 4,000 odd, exclusive of the houses in Yaumati which number 590 approximately—and which have to be lime-washed before the end of this month. These reminders ought to be served before the 30th April. At the present rate of obtaining the names of owners, it will take fully four months.

"(a) The books in the Land Office are not up-to-date, and difficulty is very often found in obtaining the owners of properties.

"(b) In many instances, when a Lot Number is divided into several Sections and Subsections, as is generally the case, and finally into Sections of the Subsections, it is necessary to refer to five or six volumes (huge books) in order to find a single name, and this cannot be done at once, because solicitors and others generally crowd the Land Office the greater part of the day, searching for names of owners, Deeds, memorials and other papers.

"(c) There is only one street index in the Land Office, and one index to Lot Numbers (both old), and therefore it is very difficult to have possession of the two books when many business people are urgently in want of them at all times.

"These two books are passed from one person to another, and so a lot of time is wasted before they get into my hands.

"(d) Owing to great pressure of work in the L.O. it is impossible to register transfers of property up-to-date, and so notices have in many instances been served on the former owners with the result that the notices have been returned.

"(e) In the case of new properties, such as those on Connaught, Des Voeux, and Shaukiwan roads, and of a good many properties of Yau-mati, Tsim-tsa-tsue and Hung-hom, the required information is not obtainable at the L.O."

Dr. CLARK proposed that the Board revoke the resolution of the 15th March owing to the fact that it had proved impracticable and that the Government be asked to grant the Board power to expend money in advertising in the Chinese and European press and posting placards during the various periods in which the lime-washing was required to be done.

The CHAIRMAN, in seconding, expressed the opinion that the majority of owners of the property knew perfectly well what was required of them.

Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN said that the Chinese Commercial Union would do all they could to assist in improving the sanitation of the colony, and that the committee purposed issuing notices in Chinese urging that the cleansing and limewashing of houses should be attended to without delay.

The fortnightly limewashing return stated:—"The period for limewashing of Central district is still current. Many landlords leave the limewashing till the last few days of the period. The Inspector in charge of limewashing reports that he has visited three or four hundred houses (several times individually) for which he has had notices of "intention" where work has not been started. This entails on him considerable needless and avoidable work."

EXTENSION OF TIME.

Wong Kam and Tin Wing Shing, of 26 and 28, Kennedy street, respectively, asked to be allowed to keep their cattle in the sheds 26 and 18, Kennedy street, for a further period of four months, i.e., until a new shed is built.

It was decided to grant the application.

THE DRAINAGE BYE-LAWS.

A letter was submitted from the Surveyor (Mr. Drury) recommending the alteration of Drainage Bye-law No. 55, or the addition of another Bye-law made under Ordinance 24 of 1857, to give the Board power to enforce open semi-eggshaped channels instead of underground pipes, to the greatest extent possible, in any private house drainage scheme in the city, which Bye-law No. 55 does not provide for.

Dr. Hartigan, Mr. Osborne, and Dr. Lawson moved in favour of the scheme.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that this matter be referred to a sub-committee which at present existed and which was dealing with the subject of drains.

Mr. MCKIE seconded and the motion was carried.

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

A return from the British Consul at Tainan showed that from the 11th to the 16th March 137 cases of plague were reported. The deaths numbered 105, recoveries 15, under treatment 17.

PLAGUE IN MACAO.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended March 25th numbered 69, including 15 from plague.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The death rate of the colony for the week ended March 24th was 27.3 against 23 for the previous week and 14.8 for the corresponding week last year.

Dr. CLARK said the Board would have to do something. He had there a return which showed that the number of cases of plague up to date was 39. During the last five days they had had 13 cases. Practically all the cases notified had occurred in Wanchai (No. 2 district). He proposed that No. 2 district should be declared infected with plague. He added that during the last fortnight 2,918 rats had been destroyed, which was 700 more than during the previous fortnight. The total number of rats destroyed was 7,771.

Dr. LOWSON seconded and the motion was carried.

It was decided that it be left to Drs. Lowson and Clark to organise an efficient search for plague cases in No. 2 district, and that the Government be asked to supply the funds necessary for the purpose.

THE IMPORTATION OF DOGS FROM SHANGHAI.

A letter from H.B.M.'s Consul General at Shanghai was attached, stating that the port was free from rabies, but that cases had occurred within the last six months.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved:—"In view of the fact that cases of rabies have occurred in Shanghai during the past six months, I recommend that the prohibition of the importation of dogs from that port be extended for a period of six months from date."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS agreed with the Medical Officer of Health.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. J. MCKIE, the recommendation above was adopted.

The Board then went into committee.

Mr. W. J. Napier succeeds Mr. C. Stringer, who retires on departure to England, as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council at Singapore.

OPENING OF THE NEW S'LDIERS' CLUB.

INTERESTING ADDRESS BY H.E. MAJOR-GENERAL GASCOIGNE, C.M.G.

Heretofore the members of the different units composing the Garrison of Hongkong have had no proper place where they could meet together to pass away an odd hour outside Barracks pleasantly. The want of such a place has long been felt, and now that want has been met by the transformation of the building known as "G Block" in Queen's Road East, opposite Fletcher Street, into a Soldiers' Club, which was formally opened by His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., on Saturday, the 14th inst., in the presence of a large number of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Garrison, with a sprinkling of Bluejackets. The premises were, at one time used as a kind of institute for soldiers and sailors, and though the institute did some good work it was not made use of to any appreciable extent, no doubt in consequence of intoxicating liquors being tabooed and religion being somewhat prominently put forward. His Excellency the Major-General and his officers recognised that "Tommy" was evidently of opinion that it was possible to have too much of a good thing, and taking the same view, determined to supply him with a club identical with their own. The War Office returned a favourable answer to a suggestion forwarded to them by His Excellency, granting the free use of the building. The furniture and fittings, however, had to be provided, and the men have to thank their officers (not forgetting the General) for getting together the wherewithal to rig out the building. On the ground floor is a bar where a decent glass of beer can be procured at a small cost. Upstairs is a large room to be used one part as the dining room, another part for reading, and a third part for billiards. The room is comfortable, light, and airy, and is well adopted in every way for the purposes for which it is being put.

His Excellency arrived at the club at about five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, being accompanied by Mrs. Gascoigne, the Misses Edgington, and Captain Trefusis, A.D.C. The party at once inspected the premises, and expressed themselves as well pleased with what they saw. Subsequently those present assembled in the large room and His Excellency addressed some observations to them.

His Excellency the MAJOR-GENERAL said:—"Ladies and gentlemen, men of the Garrison of Hongkong—because it is to you that I particularly want to make my remarks to-day—this is a new experiment that we are trying to-day, and whether it succeeds or fails will rest entirely with you, the Garrison of Hongkong. I should like just to tell you a few of the circumstances that led up to the conception of the starting of this club. Very shortly after I assumed command of the Garrison here, several senior officers came to me and regretted that there were not more opportunities of recreation for the troops in the Garrison, and I saw myself that that was a very great want, and I determined to do everything I could, in conjunction with the officers, to remedy that want, and we are trying to do our best in various ways. You know that there is that Parade Ground, as it used to be called. We have got that turfed and levelled, and we hope to keep it for the recreation of the troops—for games, and so forth—because I feel that going the whole way to Happy Valley is inconvenient sometimes to the men, and I do recognise that the one want of Hongkong is greater facilities for recreation. Well, then the Garrison of Hongkong is peculiarly situated, as you know, by all the units being broken up into detachments. The Artillery are at Stonecutters, Belchers, and Lyemoon; the Welch Fusiliers are at Mount Austin, here in Queen's Road, and over at Kowloon. In fact there are any number of small detachments, and therefore it was thought by the officers that if we could have a sort of central club or recreation place of meeting, where the different units could occasionally meet together, and where a man who might be tired of staying in Barracks could come outside Barracks and sit and amuse himself and smoke his cigar and have a glass of beer, we should

be supplying a great want. (Hear, hear.) The next thing was to cast about and see where we could have it, and "G Block," on account of its situation, seemed admirably suited to the purpose. So the officers got me to write home and get permission from the War Office to use "G Block" for the purpose. Of course it took a certain time to get an answer. At last we got an answer saying that they would be willing to let me have it on two conditions. One was that it was really shown to be a positive want, and the other was the regular one that it should be no expense to the public. Well, the officers met me and they determined to go on with the club. Well, now, I must tell you that when we first met together I did not anticipate—I do not know what others did—that so large a sum of money would be required to furnish this building and to start it as proved to be the case when we went into figures. You see, the War Office gave us the bare walls only. Everything else—lighting, furniture, etc.—had to be provided. Well, we felt that the great thing was to make a start. We felt that if the club proved to be a want, if you really appreciated it, the thing could go of itself; but it had to be started. The officers at once came forward and said they would like to start it, and so a commencement was made. But when I went into figures I found, as I say, that a larger sum of money was required than we, or at any rate than I, anticipated; and so I had the officers up again. I felt it my duty, and I said, "Although you have asked me to go on with this, yet at the same time it is only right and fair to tell you that a larger sum of money than we anticipated will be wanted. Now, what do you say?" They at once replied "General, we think this thing is wanted and we wish it to be done; we wish you to go on with it." I tell you this, and I think there is no bad taste in my telling it you, because if I did not tell it you might fancy that everything had been done very easily and comfortably, and you might not perhaps so completely appreciate the trouble and expense that it has been; and if I know soldiers at all I feel quite certain of this, that they will greatly appreciate a gift, a handsome gift, from the officers to the men, from comrades to comrades. And therefore it is that I point this out you. (Hear, hear.) Well, having arranged all that, the order was given to go on. We had committee meeting after committee meeting. When I say we, I had very little to do with it. Though I appear as the mouthpiece of the officers, I have had only a small part in this as compared with them. There has been a great deal of hard work. I suppose there must have been something like ten or 12 meetings—first of all of the committee and then of the working committee—to see what they should want and what they ought best to do for your comfort. Well, the thing was gone on with and now I have come here, and it is a very great pleasure to me, as the mouthpiece of the officers, to make it a free gift to the Garrison of Hongkong. (Applause.) But having started it the officers and I have quite agreed about this: that, once started, the rest must be done by yourselves. There are no subscriptions asked of the members, but supposing you do not care about the building, supposing it does not prove to be the want that I and the officers generally believed it to be, and that you do not patronise it to any great extent, well then I am pledged to close it, and close it I shall. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I again repeat that it rests entirely with you whether you find it is an advantage or whether it is a disadvantage; it rests entirely with you whether the building goes on or whether it is closed. Well, now, I should like to say a few words about the constitution of the club. We have called it a Soldiers' Club, and the officers have arranged that it shall be exactly on the same footing as one of our officers' clubs, to which all of us belong at some place or another. That is that there shall be no restrictions except the restrictions that good taste, good feeling, and good conduct always compel for the maintenance of any building. We settled that there should be no restriction about liquor. Now I want to speak a few words about the liquor question. Of course, I, as the General Officer Commanding, and all the other officers naturally are most strongly in favour of sobriety and good conduct in every way. Several of the

commanding officers here in the different Barracks have encouraged and started teetotal and temperance meetings, and I can only say that I, in conjunction with them, have the greatest admiration and respect for a teetotaler who remains a teetotaler on principle, or for the weaker man—weaker in one sense but strong in a moral sense—who say, "If I touch liquor at all I shall exceed and so I will take the pledge and take none." That man I have the highest admiration for, but at the same time I feel that there is a very much larger body of men who are perfectly able to enjoy the good things of this life in moderation and in temperance, and it is to them that this building is thrown open. It seems to me that it would be a very hard thing indeed if a man who had come from Mount Austin into town could not have a glass of beer in a place like this. I enjoy my own glass and I enjoy it in moderation, and I am perfectly certain that the great bulk of the men in the Army do the same. After close on 38 years in the service I can only say that I do not think I have ever seen a greater change than that which I have seen in the Army. When I joined the Army there was an enormous amount of drinking, no doubt, but that has all changed and now, and I say it most advisedly and most clearly I believe that if you were to take a couple of thousand soldiers and a couple of thousand civilians you would find more sobriety among the former than among the latter. (Applause.) Well, therefore, after a great deal of discussion and after a great deal of consideration the officers asked me to allow liquor to be sold here. Then we came to another question. Many of these institutes or clubs or whatever they are called mix up religion with them. Here again no man, I can truthfully say, believes more in the effect of religion than I do; but there is a time and a place for all things, and it seems to me that as my own club is not considered the place for religion, so we decided after a great deal of consideration, that this club should be opened to men of all denominations and that religion should not be a feature. (Hear, hear.) I wish to point out another thing—I feel quite sure I am not unduly detaining you, because this is my one opportunity of telling you exactly how the whole thing stands. Another question came before the committee of officers. They said, the question was, "Shall we have a non-commissioned officer on duty here to keep order and so forth?" And the officers unanimously said to me, "No, General; we do not think there is the least necessity for it." (Hear, hear.) I feel quite certain that if a man thoroughly understands the conditions on which the club exists there will be no trouble whatever. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I say there will be no more restrictions in this club than there are in any one of the officers' clubs or than there are in the Hongkong Club. (Hear, hear.) Then we hope that this place will be a great centre of sport of all kinds. We hope that Garrison matches will be planned here. We hope very shortly to start in connection with it a boat club. I cannot help thinking that in all these ways the club will be of immense advantage to the Garrison of Hongkong. (Hear, hear.) Well, now, about the question of members. The members who will practically have the management of the club are the men of the European corps of the Garrison, but we have also wished to make certain honorary members. We feel that the Hongkong Volunteers should be made honorary members, and therefore we have sent them an invitation to so consider themselves. We were obliged to make the restriction that they must be in uniform, because if they are not in uniform the Excise Authorities might think we were serving out drink to men who were not members, and also if they came in plain clothes the Manager might not know whether they had the right to anything or not. Well, then, we decided also that we would ask the petty officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the sister service, the Royal Navy, to consider themselves honorary members too. (Applause.) This suggestion was unanimously adopted by the committee, our only doubt being—I say it now as I have already said it to the Commodore—that possibly sometimes in the winter months, when there is a large number of ships in the Harbour, there may be such a large number of the Navy men who would like to come and have a glass with brother soldiers that they might inconveniently crowd us out in a small building of this kind. If such a thing should happen I know perfectly well—for the Navy men will appreciate the fact that I and the whole of the officers of the Garrison are anxious to do everything we can for them—that if under those circumstances I said, "You are rather a large body. We have but a small house, and therefore, I will ask you to restrict the numbers," the Navy would accept it with the greatest pleasure. (Hear, hear.) The members of the club will practically have, as I say, the management of it. The club is formed in this way. There is a committee of all the senior officers commanding the different units of the Garrison and they have honoured me by making me their Chairman. There is a working committee of officers and non-commissioned officers and, I take this opportunity of saying how much we owe to a number of young energetic officers who have devoted themselves to carrying out this project. It is entirely due to them that the building is what you see it to-night. (Applause.) Well, there is the working committee; and then we have a sub-committee of ourselves, and that sub-committee has only to bring before the working committee anything in reason that it thinks is wise and good, and it will be done. In addition to that there will be a book provided here in which any member will be justified in writing any little thing which he recommends or any complaint that he thinks is worth calling attention to. The only stipulation is that he must sign his name; otherwise no notice will be taken of the entry. I mention all this because I want you all to understand that every man has got a personal interest in the management of the club—that is the members, because the honorary members have no say in it. They are merely honorary members as guests. But the members have all a distinct interest in the club and in its management, and therefore I am perfectly confident that if you see at any time anything going on which is not quite what it should be you will be your own police and put it down. I feel so confident of that that I do not say anything more on the subject, except again to remind you—and those who know me know that I am a man of my word—of the two stipulations made. One is that if the building is not sufficiently kept going by the patronage of the men, if it is not self-supporting, it will be closed. Then if I find—though I do not anticipate it in the least—that there is any trouble and that the offer of the officers is not met in the spirit in which it was made, I have arranged that the club shall be closed instantly, and there will be nothing further said about it. (Hear, hear.) I think I have now told you everything about it. The club, you will see, will be self-supporting. That is what the sale of refreshments ought to be, and we believe it will be sufficient to pay all the working expenses of the club. If there is anything over that goes into the club. The accounts of the club will be laid before you at certain times of the year—posted up in the club. There is one little matter I ought just to mention. A commanding officer who takes a great deal of interest in his canteen and Regimental Institute may well say, "Well, if there is money expended here it will come out of my canteen profit." Instead of saying that the commanding officers at once came and said, "No, General, if it is for the good, as we believe it to be, of the men, we do not care about that. We will give our adherence to it, but we will ask you not to undersell the canteens." Of course that was only reasonable and proper, and therefore as there are greater expenses attached to this building than to a Regimental Institute, which has pretty well everything found for it, the committee have arranged that there shall be a small increase on canteen prices for refreshments. I mention this because you will then see the reason for it. Now I have told you as far as I can everything connected with the building. There is one thing which will rather amuse you. When the officers met the other day we thought to ourselves that we would throw the club open to-day, and so we informed the Manager that it was intended to open the club to-day instead of on Monday, so that the members would be able to make use of it during the holidays. The Manager was horrified at this. He said his beer would not have had time to settle and that this would

give a bad impression of the place. (Laughter.) I said that if I knew the men at all I did not think they would be likely to be affected by that. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I have thrown the club open to-day. I say again, about the list of papers and other things, you must remember that this has given us a great deal of thought. At the same time we may have neglected certain things. All you have to do is to bring these things before us. But I feel perfectly sure you will recognise that we have done the best we could, and I look forward to the thing being a great success. All I can say is that if it is a success, if it does meet your wants, I shall esteem myself the most fortunate of men that during my tenure of command, although I had very little to do with the matter myself, it turns out the success which I believe it will turn out to be. (Applause.)

Garrison Sergeant-Major BROWN said — General Gascoigne, on behalf of the warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and other soldiers of this Garrison, I beg to tender to you, sir, our thanks for the honour you have done us in opening this club. I am aware, sir, that to you principally the Garrison are indebted for starting the club by the influence of your position as General Officer and by a most bountiful donation in money. To the other officers we also owe our thanks for supporting your appeal by money and by energetic help, Hongkong badly needed such an institution, a comfortable and respectable home for the soldiers, and, sir, I know that your zeal for our welfare will be highly appreciated by the Garrison to a man. In thanking you, sir, as the mover and head of this scheme to improve the position of the soldier in Hongkong and to administer to his comforts, I beg also to thank all officers of the Garrison for the assistance they have given to the movement. (Applause.)

Private MILLER, R.W.F. said—I beg, sir, to second this motion, and on behalf of the soldiers to tender to you, sir, and the officers our best thanks. We badly wanted a comfortable club in Hongkong, and one is now found for us. We heartily appreciate the kindness now shown to us. (Applause.)

H.E. the MAJOR-GENERAL — I beg to thank you both very much for the kind words you have said. I again repeat that I have taken a very small share in it. I could not have done it by myself. I had to entirely depend upon others. It is these others you have to thank. I feel perfectly certain you will appreciate the fact that the younger officers quite as much as the seniors have all joined in the work and taken as much interest in it as the seniors. (Hear, hear.) Now I have to declare the club open and wish it every possible success. (Applause.)

Hearty cheers, followed by "tigers," were given for His Excellency and Mrs. Gascoigne and the Misses Edgington.

THE TRAGIC AFFAIR AT CONNAUGHT HOUSE HOTEL

THE INQUEST YESTERDAY.

On the 17th inst. an enquiry was opened into the circumstances connected with the death of Mr. S. B. Terry, who was found shot in his room at the Connaught House Hotel on the morning of the 5th April.

Dr. Bell, who made a post-mortem examination of the body, said there was a bullet wound on the left side of the skull about an inch above the ear, the aperture of exit being on the right side exactly opposite. The skull was much fractured round the aperture of entrance, and the brain was much lacerated. There were no other marks on the body. The bullet produced might have caused the wound. The wound might have been self-inflicted. There were no marks of burning near the aperture of entrance. He would not expect to find any unless the barrel was held close up to the skin. In his opinion death would be almost instantaneous. All the internal organs were healthy.

Ah Hing, the deceased's boy, who gave his evidence in Malvy, said his master died on the 5th April. He last saw him alive in his own room at Connaught House Hotel at half-past 11 the previous evening. The deceased asked him for some ginger ale, and he went down to get some but found it locked up. He informed the deceased, who replied, "Very well; if I can't get it I'll

go to bed." Witness then went away when he saw the deceased was sat down in a chair, smoking a cigarette. He was dressed in his sleeping-clothes. On going into his master's room the next morning with some tea he found him on a long chair dead. He had a pistol in his right hand, and there was a deal of blood running from the left side of his head. The deceased was alone when witness saw him the night before. The deceased used to lock his room door, but on this particular morning it was not locked. When he saw that the deceased was dead he went over to Kowloon and told a friend of his master's what had happened, having previously told some of the boys in the hotel. His master was quite well when he last saw him alive. Before then he had been sick; he had been drinking.

Mr. Fonseca, manager of the Connaught House Hotel said that at about half-past five on the afternoon of the 5th inst. the deceased asked him to make up his account, as he was leaving the next day, and at six o'clock he gave the account to his boy. The same night he was working in his office until about a quarter to 12. The deceased's room was just above his office. The next morning one of the hotel boys came to him and told him that the deceased was dying in No. 16 room, and on going to the room he found the man was dead. He reported to the Police and sent for Dr. Jordan. The deceased had been in the hotel since February 1st. He saw Dr. Jordan four or five days before his death. He seemed to be in good health. Witness slept on the third floor and the deceased's room was on the second. He heard no pistol shot.

Mr. W. H. Gaskell, accountant and secretary of the Panjore Mining Company, said he was in the deceased's company the day before he died. Witness had taken his ticket by the Lightning, and the deceased called to see him about four o'clock. The deceased was in a weak and nervous state. They were together an hour looking over plans. The deceased asked him to see him home and he did so. The man was quite sober. He said somebody was waiting for him in Ice-house street and he was afraid to return alone on account of him. The deceased did not mention who it was. Witness told him he was suffering from hallucinations, and the deceased said he had had fever. He next saw the man dead the day following, when the deceased ought to have left for Singapore.

Evidence of identification was given, and also as to the finding of the body by the police, and a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased committed suicide while in a state of unsound mind.

THE ENTERTAINMENT IN AID OF THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The first performance of the grand variety entertainment in aid of the Indian Famine Fund took place on the 19th inst. at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, before an appreciative audience. The exhausting character of the weather fortunately did not succeed in keeping too many away, and with a good house on Friday and a better one still on Saturday a substantial sum ought to be collected for this most deserving fund. The vacant seats on Thursday were, we hear, for the most part, booked, so that more money was realised than would appear from the state of the house. The programme was excellently varied, and from the Overture by the band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to the finishing bars of the selection from *The Mikado*, Act I, the attention of all present was fully occupied.

To come to the details of the night's entertainment, after the opening music, there was presented an Indian dance arranged by Mr. G. A. Caldwell and capably performed by the sixteen ladies and gentlemen whose names appear below. Then Mr. C. H. Grace followed with "Ho, Jolly Jenkins!" which he rendered with appropriate vigour. The fourth item was the Quartette "Brightly dawns our Wedding Day," from *The Mikado*, in which the voices of the singers blended very well. Lieutenant Walwyn came next with the ever-popular "What ho! she bumps," to which he gave as an encore "Father's got 'em." The last item of the first half was that amusing Early Victorian farce *The Area Belle*, in which

all the actors came off with credit. Mrs. Borrett made an excellent *Penelope* and was well supported by Messrs. Noble and Sexton in the leading male parts, and Mrs. Clark and Mr. Chapman in smaller roles.

The second part was opened by the band with a selection from *The Runaway Girl*. Mrs. Lawson came next with *A May Morning*, which was one of the best things of the evening. As an encore she gave *Winter*, which was also highly appreciated. The Prologue to *Pagliacci* was next on the programme, and all who heard Mr. Marsh sing this the other night know that a fine rendering of this magnificent piece of music was in store for them. Mr. Marsh, who appeared on this occasion in costume, rendered the song even better than he did on the previous occasion, and repeated attempts were made to induce him to give an encore. He was, however, obdurate. Finally came the selection from the first act of *The Mikado*, in which the whole cast did well, but especially noticeable were Messrs. Caldwell and Sexton as *Koko* and *Pooh Bah*. As the three little maids, Mrs. Hagen, Mrs. Borrett, and Miss Stopani looked and sang well, and Messrs. Ardon and Danby were most capable as *Pish Tush* and *Nanki Po*. Much amusement was caused by the local "hits" i.e. *Koko's* speech returning thanks for his reception, at the end of which he deprecated "letters to the papers." The cutting of the libretto involved a few slight hitches, which another performance will remove, but on the whole the selection ran smoothly enough and did credit to those who took part in it, not forgetting the chorus and the accompanists.

The following is the full programme:

PART I.

Overture Band R.W.F.
Indian Dance—Arranged by Mr. G. A. Caldwell.—Misses Anita d'Almada e Castro, Hance, Henderson, Stopani, M. d'Almada e Remedios, F. d'Almada e Remedios, M. Seth and M. Sayer. Messrs. Armstrong, Danby, Henderson, Hance, Ellis, H. Seth, Bain and S. Seth.
Song Mr. C. H. Grace.
Quartette "Brightly dawns our wedding day" (Sullivan).

Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Alec Marsh and Mr. C. H. Lammert.
Song (Comic) F. Walwyn, R.W.F.

"THE AREA BELLE." (A Farce in one Act.)

CHARACTERS.
Tosser ... (in the Guards) .. Mr. J. F. Noble.
Pitcher ... (of the Police) .. G. H. Sexton.
Chalks (A Milkman) .. A. Chapman.
Mrs. Croaker Mrs. Francis Clark.
Penelope (the Area Belle) .. Borrett.
Scene—Mrs. Croaker's Kitchen.

PART II.
Overture Selection from
"The Runaway Girl" ... Band R.W.F.
Song Mrs. J. A. Lawson.
Song (The Prologue from
Pagliacci) Mr. Alec Marsh.

Selection from the First Act of "THE MIKADO."

CHARACTERS.
Pish Tush Mr. G. H. Ardon.
Pooh Bah G. H. Sexton.
Nanki Po J. Danby.
Ko-ko G. A. Caldwell.
Petti Sing Mrs. Borrett.
Peep Bo Miss Stopani.
Yum Yum Mrs. Hagen.

CHORUS.
Messrs. W. Armstrong, P. G. Anderson, H.K.R., L. J. C. Anderson, A. L. Barrett, H.K.R., A. Chapman, H.K.V., A. Ellis, G. P. Lammert, H. A. Lammert, J. A. Lawson, J. F. Noble, A. C. Stevens, R.E. A. G. Ward.
ACCOMPANISTS.
Messrs. G. Grimble and A. G. Ward.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha boat, the *Tokio Maru*, which ran ashore in a fog on the 1st inst. shortly after leaving Chefoo, is now reported not to be a total wreck. It is true that she lost four passengers, two Chinese and two Japanese, but the rest of the passengers and the crew were safely landed at Chefoo. The *Fusiki Maru* has been ordered to stand by to assist her.

THE PUBLIC WORKS REPORT FOR 1899.

The annual report of the Director of Public Works is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following brief extracts:—

WORK UNDER THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

There was great activity in building operations throughout the colony during the year. The new and extensive premises and workshops of the Green Island Cement Company at Hok Un were completed, also the very large buildings of the Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company at Causeway Bay. The Dock Company's premises at Hung Hom were largely extended, a large match factory was also built near Hung Hom, and numerous large blocks of tenement houses there, and at Yaumati.

The principal building completed in the city was the very handsome block of Offices, now known as Queen's Buildings, on the Reclamation near Pedder's Wharf, consisting of four floors and containing sixteen suites of Offices.

The handsome Offices of the United Telegraph Companies next the Hongkong Club were completed and occupied during the year, also a large block of buildings adjoining it on the East, next to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's Offices.

Building of godowns and of Chinese houses on the new Reclamation has proceeded rapidly.

A large number of handsome European houses were completed, or nearly so, in the new district lying between Kennedy Road and Bowen Road, where land was eagerly sought for this purpose. In spite of this the supply is not equal to the demand, and rents continue to rise.

WATER SUPPLY (MR. CROOK'S REPORT).

The consumption in the Hill Districts has increased considerably since mains were first laid at the Peak, and there has also been a steady increase in the consumption in the High Levels of the City (pumped supply) since 1895. This has necessitated additional pumping at all the stations, the original pumping machinery laid down for the Peak doing practically full duty during the summer months. In order to meet the demand a new motor, designed for pumping both to the Hill Districts and High Levels of the city, a new and more powerful pump for the Arbuthnot Road motor and the necessary rising mains were ordered from England during the year and will, it is hoped, be working before the summer of 1900.

PUBLIC WORKS ANNUALLY RECURRENT.

Maintenance of Buildings.—The chief item of expenditure incurred during the year on this vote was on Government House, which, having been very little used for some years, had fallen into a serious state of disrepair. Many minor repairs were effected throughout the building, the total expenditure on it amounting to \$9,799.

Dredging Foreshores.—The dredger was largely employed during the year in removing accumulations of city refuse dropped into the harbour at the Dust Boat Stations. The Sanitary Board have been addressed on this matter, and in future it is hoped the scavenging contractor will be held responsible for this and compelled to pay the cost of dredging. When not so employed, the Dredger works in connection with the Praya Reclamation, or is occasionally lent on hire for private work, when it can be spared.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IN VICTORIA.

The roads in the City were maintained in fairly good order during the year. The hard blue stone experimented with in 1898 was found to wear so well that as much as could possibly be obtained, through the use of the stone-breaker at Kennedy Town, was utilized. The old Praya from Ice House Lane to the Canton Wharf was entirely re-surfaced, as well as a great part of Queen's Road West.

It may be noted that large additions have been made to the mileage of roads in the colony owing to the completion of various sections of the Praya Reclamation, the opening up of new building area in Hongkong and in Kowloon, while the vote for maintenance has remained at almost the same figure for many years.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

Some delay in starting work occurred at the commencement of the year awaiting the sanction of the Secretary of State to the Estimates for the year, and as stated in paragraph 3, several of the proposed works were postponed. [This

paragraph runs:—The comparatively small expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary is due to the fact that orders were given to postpone certain works for a time, and also to the great demand made on the Department by the Works undertaken in the New Territory after it was taken over.]

New Territory.—The taking over of the New Territory caused heavy demands to be made on this Department for the erection of buildings of a temporary or permanent nature, the construction of Telephone Lines and Roads, repair and alteration of existing buildings, etc. Many designs and estimates were prepared for buildings which were afterwards altered in their arrangement or method of construction, entailing the preparation of new plans and estimates, or were abandoned entirely. The difficulties of carrying out works in the New Territory have been great owing to the absence of facilities for travelling, good roads being non-existent and the rough tracks which serve for roads being often flooded with water in the rainy season. The importance of constructing good trunk roads through the principal valleys to aid in the development and administration of the district cannot be too strongly urged upon the Government.

Public Latrines.—A plan and estimate was prepared and tenders were received for an extensive latrine in the Taipingshan District. In consequence, however, of the opposition raised to the site by the Po Leung Kuk Directors the work was abandoned. A new site has since been selected, but, as this involved the preparation of a new plan and estimate, the building has not yet been begun.

Washing Tanks at Tai Hang.—The bed of the Tai Hang Stream has for many years been used by the washermen of the colony as the principal place for carrying out their operations. Rough tanks were formed by removing the smaller boulders from any suitable spot in the stream bed and piling them round the sides, and as these tanks were situated at varying levels, it followed that the waste water from the upper ones found its way into the lower ones, which therefore never received a supply of clean water. Besides, a foul sediment accumulated in the bottom of the tanks as there was no proper provision made for drainage. This state of matters has been remedied by constructing a dam across the stream some distance below the Mint Dam and arranging a row of properly constructed washing tanks immediately below it. All washing above the dam has been prohibited and a supply of clean water to the tanks has thus been ensured, each tank being supplied direct from the dam. . . . The work, though of small extent, must be regarded as of some importance to the colony from a sanitary point of view. The training of the stream below the tanks is a matter which should be undertaken in order to convey away the waste water and prevent the accumulation of sludge which at present occurs among the boulders.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

During the year under review the Department may claim to have made satisfactory progress with new roads in Hongkong. The extension of Macdonnell Road to a junction with Kennedy Road was taken in hand on an estimate of \$7,500 and completed at a cost of \$6,992.03. It proved a difficult road to construct owing to the deep cuttings through rather loose material full of boulders, the heavy embankment at one point and the very hard and unworkable rock cutting at the lower end. The number of building lots sold in consequence of the opening of this road and the access thereby afforded to the sites was three, the premium realized \$16,617, and annual Crown Rent secured \$856.00. It must therefore be classed among the paying public works.

Although a vote on account of "Black's Link" appeared in the estimates, it was decided that the work must be postponed, and only a small expenditure was incurred in keeping the rough path, which was made when the trace was being surveyed, open. It is to be hoped that the construction of a road so strongly urged by General Black will not be much longer delayed.

In the report for 1898 reference was made to the projected road from the Upper Tram Station to High West and thence down to Upper Richmond Road. A vote of \$1,000 enabled the Department to effect great improvements in this, as a footpath, strengthening the bamboo

staging, and making rough masonry stream crossings, since which the road has been largely used. This road may be considered as forming part of a road to be constructed from Glenealy Ravine along the Pokfulam Conduit to the Victoria Battery and thence up to High West, having its upper terminus at the Upper Tram Station. A commencement has been made at the lower end, and it is expected the road from the Tram Station will also be shortly in hand. No more valuable road has ever been projected in the colony for opening up new building-sites, and it is certain that in a few years the prime cost of the road would be recovered over and over again in the sale of land.

The Victoria Jubilee Road.—The dead lock continues and another year has passed without a start being made.

There is no doubt that nothing will tend so much to improve and develop the New Territory as good highways, the inhabitants will come more frequently to Hongkong, bringing their surplus produce for sale, and taking back with them goods which in former times seldom if ever reached the remote villages, as well as knowledge gained from their own observation of the effects of civilization and progress.

Wheel traffic will follow in due course and cattle will be bred and trained for the purpose.

PRAYA RECLAMATION.

The new pier opposite the end of the extension of Pedder's Street, for which on completion a new name should be found, is now being erected and will probably be completed in August. As stated in the report for 1898, the designs were prepared by Messrs. Coode, Son and Matthews, and the construction in England carefully supervised by that firm, Mr. Matthews taking a special personal interest in the work. It is of massive design and great strength, and worthy of the great shipping port of Hongkong. Its cost will exceed £10,000.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The Report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. C. V. Ladds) for the year 1899 has been published. We make a few extracts:—

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND RINDERPEST.
I am of opinion that the chief source of infection in these outbreaks was due to straw which was brought from infected districts in the Extension, which is a further argument in favour of dealing with all such epidemics in the New Territory.

PIRACY IN CHINESE WATERS.

Much loss has been recently sustained by Hongkong cattle dealers and butchers through piracies of cattle upon the West and North Rivers. In several instances whole junk-loads of cattle have been seized and carried off by pirates, without any chance of redress to the unfortunate owners. In fact the importation of animals from Linchow, whence many of the best cattle come, has been recently stopped altogether for this reason. All this necessarily tends to increased price in the Hongkong markets, and the uncertainty of our supplies from these sources is another strong reason why the development of cattle-breeding in our own territory should be encouraged as much as possible.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

There is ample scope in the New Territory for much to be done in the way of promoting the breeding of cattle and swine. With a little encouragement and assistance from the Government, and under proper and constant supervision with the view of preventing or mitigating infectious or contagious animal diseases, the Extension should in a very short time produce sufficient animals, both cattle and swine, to enable the colony to be self-supporting in this respect, instead of being as at present almost entirely dependent upon outside sources, which might be cut off at any minute. The breeding of swine in a large way might be taken up with advantage by private individuals, but this could not very well be done in the matter of cattle, there being no extensive grazing grounds in the New Territory.

Once given a start, each small holder could easily and profitably rear one or two bullocks for the Hongkong market, and in course of time the whole of the beef supply of the colony could so be drawn from the Extension, instead of from

Kwang Tung, Kwang Si, Tonquin, and other places as at present—all of which are under foreign control.

MARKETS.

In previous reports, I have from time to time pointed out the urgent necessity of providing increased market accommodation, but as yet without any result.

In a letter to the Board, dated December 20th, 1899, I pointed out the necessity of a market for the wholesale and retail dealers in poultry and fresh fish, recommending that a site be retained for this purpose on the Praya Reclamation in front of the present Central Market.

The proposal was adopted and forwarded to the Government.

FOOD STUFFS.

During the past five years the price of all food has been gradually advancing until at the present time nearly every article consumed by both Europeans and natives shows an increase of at least 100 per cent. and in a few instances much more.

The present high price of provisions may be partly due to the high rents which are paid by many stall-holders in the various markets. For instance, in the Western Market two stall-holders pay \$75. and \$47.50 respectively per month for two beef stalls, the dimensions of which are only 6 feet by 3 feet. A pork butcher in the same market also pays \$70 a month for a stall of similar dimensions.

Many of the shops and stalls in the other markets are rented in a like proportion. Although I believe the cost of erecting the Western Market in the first instance did not exceed \$9,437.12, yet, during last year, the revenue derived from its stall rents amounted to no less than \$23,465.64.

MARKET COOLIES.

These coolies are still underpaid, and consequently I experience great difficulty in obtaining suitable men, good ones simply engaging themselves temporarily, and then passing on to more lucrative employment outside. I have repeatedly pointed out the wisdom of paying these coolies slightly above the ordinary market rate in order to obtain good men who would take an interest in their work, and remain some length of time in the Government employ, instead of joining for a week or two as at present and then leaving to better themselves.

THE HARBOUR OF MASAMPO.

Mr. J. N. Jordan, British Consul General at Seoul, who recently visited Masampo, describes the harbour as follows:—

"Douglas inlet, which forms the entrance to the harbour of Masampo, lies between the two large islands of Kojedo and Tondaisan, and is about five miles in breadth. It is divided into three channels by Cone and Taipong islands, all of which contain abundant depth of water and ample space for the largest ships. Masampo contains a population of about 2,000 people, with a monopoly of filthy surroundings out of all proportion to the number of its inhabitants. If its commercial value is doubtful, the importance of Masampo as a harbour can hardly be over-rated. High naval authorities of various nationalities agree in considering it one of the finest in the world, and some would even go the length of denying that it has any superior in the possibilities which it affords for naval purposes. The special feature of the place would seem to be the uniform depth of water—six to seven fathoms—and excellent holding ground found everywhere in the large expanse of land-locked water that lies between Sir Harry Parkes Sound and the gate below Masampo Reach. The area of the Settlement is about 60,000 square metres (150 acres), and the situation seems to be admirably adapted for commercial purposes, containing abundant good sites for business and residential quarters."

Among the arrivals by the *Japan* we note the names of Lady Carrington, who has come out to rejoin her husband, Sir J. W. Carrington, and Miss Carrington.

The number of visitors to the City Hall Library during the week ending 15th April included 310 Europeans and 116 Chinese; the Museum was visited by 133 Europeans and 2,042 Chinese.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

THE COMING OF THE COMMISSION—AN OVERWORKED ADMINISTRATION.

Manila, 10th April.

The coming of the new Commission, with Judge Taft as president, and the recent publication of a new system of municipal government, have placed matters on a different basis and infused new life and enthusiasm into a much worried and somewhat stiff-necked administration. I say stiff-necked not in the extreme meaning of the word, but rather as indicative of a kind of solidity, of a state of affairs brought about by routine and red tape during nearly two years of the hardest kind of drudgery, in which laws were often made and rulings given where mature deliberation was impossible. Civil matters of every conceivable description have been adjusted and certainly more complicated cases than those met in the Philippines do not exist.

The time has come when there must be many changes; demands are coming in every day from all quarters for modification of the laws, adjustment to circumstances and the establishment of precedents in new sets of circumstances. The present administration has handled the conflicting condition most ably, but at the same time the whole system has grown into ruts and routine and has been so occupied with new questions, that little time or inclination can be found to bring about changes. To begin with, its procedures are essentially military, and all who have any acquaintance with military affairs must know the tremendous aversion that is manifested toward changes, and also the endless complications and red-tapeism that have to be overcome before alteration is effected. Rulings which were given a year ago, under which things have been existing since that time, are no longer convenient and often unjust, as the conditions and circumstances have vastly changed. Manila itself is held in check and retarded in many ways by the lack of the necessary legislation and adjustment.

Thus it is that in view of the many changes that are expected to result from commission, considerable enthusiasm is manifested. I have heard an officer of high rank say—"I myself feel that perhaps my removal for a time at least, with substitution of a new man, would be productive of good results. Much as I like my work and am interested in it, I feel this to be true. Months of grinding and studying over complex questions tends to narrow any man, and unless he is given a change he is not able to produce such good returns."

The idea is undoubtedly correct and applies not only to the officer who uttered it but to many others. The rigours of a tropical climate have told heavily against many of the heads of the administration, while the work both in character and quantity has been and is far more arduous than the home routine. A large percentage of the governmental corps is tired and worn and stiff. The fresh blood and energy that is needed to wrestle with the unusual work is not there and results are not up to possibilities.

INCESSANT WORK LESSENS RESULTS.

Sundays, holidays, bank holidays and every other day, the machinery of the government is at work; it never stops and much of it runs through the night. Civil questions are rapidly overtaking and subordinating military affairs and the problem is too large, too intricate and too changeable for the military administration. Matters are constantly gravitating in the right direction, as they must necessarily do under a just and wise government, but when the trained and qualified agents for this profession come here and begin work, progress will be rapid. The proposed changes will advance the work of reconstruction six months at least.

GENERAL OTIS TO RETURN.

It is probable that General Otis will return to America in a short time after the new commission arrives. He has been rounding up his work and preparing for any changes. As long ago as the 1st of January he made it known in an interview that he was thinking of leaving the Philippines if it would be convenient to the Washington Government.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon his work here, and yet I am sure that the majority of thinking people will gladly welcome his successor and look forward enthusiastically to the new possibilities and the new regime.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 14th April.

Of the four ancient classes, the literary or official, the agricultural, the mechanical, and the mercantile, the agricultural takes the second place in importance. So on the 9th ult., between 8 and 9 a.m., H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang and all the principal Chinese officials went in court dress by chair to the temple of Shen Ning beyond the east gate, and worshipped the patron saint of agriculture and the spirits of land and grain, after which they proceeded on to a bamboo stage lined with flags on two sides and seated themselves. Then came an old man leading an ox to the front of the stage followed by two husbandmen carrying a pair of hoes and two sets of harrows, and twelve boys representing the signs of the Zodiac. The Provincial Governor, the Tartar general, the Judge, and the magistrates descended from the stage, and assisted at the ceremony of tilling and harrowing by handling the hoes and harrows and scattering seeds, while the twelve boys sang songs to the accompaniment of music. This ceremony of agriculture is performed once a year by the officials three days after the tomb-festival.

A Bureau of Commerce is instituted by order of H. E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, of which the provincial Treasurer and the provincial Judge are presidents, while Lao Hok-shun, alias Shoucho, and Wong Chun-shien, alias Chee Chieu, are appointed directors. These two gentlemen are well known to most of your readers. The latter was once a president of the lekin bureau and secretary and adviser on foreign affairs to the late Viceroy Tan; the former was a monopolist of the Wai-shing lottery, and on account of money trouble had to leave Canton for a few years. Of late he has been showing himself pretty prominently and taking an active part in the case of King Lien-shan at Macao. The bureau is in the princely mansion of Lao Hok-shun, the finest building in Canton. As a preliminary measure it is to take over from the Shan How Cook (the Board of Reorganisation) the business of issuing licenses for coal, licenses for steam-launches to take boats in tow, and all questions between merchants and officials are to be submitted to it. This will offer many chances for the officials to make money. As a rule with the Chinese officialdom, whenever an official is degraded or even ignominiously dismissed for an offence, he can always manage by bribery or otherwise to get himself reappointed to another position, or sometimes to be reinstated.

In the district of Henngshan there are three large and powerful clans, Lum, Sew, and Lee. Lum is the richest and most powerful of the three, numbering over several thousand clansmen, while Sew is second and Lee third in importance. Amongst these tribes of mixed characters there must be plenty of thieves, rogues, and vagabonds. On the 3rd of March last a sailing vessel, the *Sun Cheong*, left Hongkong fully laden with a cargo of rice for Henngshan. When she reached Taiching about thirty vagabonds from the village went on board and carried away all the rice and sold it openly in the market place for \$2 a picul. The clan of Lum was contesting with that of Sew in buying at cheap bargains, while Lee, being weak, did not take part in it, for fear of trouble. The owner of the cargo came to Canton and presented a petition to the Viceroy, who ordered 300 soldiers to be sent there on the 10th ult., and compelled the elders of the two clans Lum and Sew to produce the ringleaders or any person connected with the robbery. The soldiers went and established themselves up in the ancestral temple of the Lum-clan. As it is not large enough to accommodate the whole lot of them, part of them had to live in mat-sheds, their food and quarters being provided by the elders of the two clans Lum and Sew until they have given up the offenders.

On account of many thefts and robberies in Canton large numbers of soldiers and watchmen

are employed to watch and patrol about in the streets day and night. The pay of a soldier is \$5 a month, and of a watchman \$3, out of which he has to pay \$2.50 for food, \$1.50 for a suit of clothes, 20 cents for a bamboo-hat, 30 cents for a pair of straw-shoes, and 30 cents squeeze to the mandarin under whom he serves, leaving 20 cents for him to spend for smoking. What can he do if he has a family? Naturally he must combine with thieves to rob and share the booty. On the other hand, when a commandant employs 500 soldiers he puts down on the list 1,000, or 1,500, so as to deceive his superior and pocket the squeeze. Whenever a parade takes place he will employ street coolies to put on uniforms and thus make up the requisite number. Whenever an alarm is given of robbery, a soldier or watchman either hides himself or pretends to pursue the thief, firing off a blank shot or two to warn him of his approach; or when the robbery is finished and the thief gone he fires off two or three shots as a farewell salute to the thief. As an instance of this the following case may be quoted. By the rule of Chinese etiquette, when a marriage takes place the guests invited are to call upon the father of the bridegroom on the morning of the wedding and present their congratulations, &c. On the 10th ult. a wedding took place in Po Wa Fong Street. The house of the bridegroom was very finely decorated with red silk hangings, scrolls, and embroidery, and ten soldiers or "braves" were engaged at fifty cents each a day, to guard the door against robbery. On the morning of the wedding a number of robbers, dressed very respectably, and seated in four covered sedan chairs in which were stored revolvers and swords, went into the house, and producing their revolvers and swords, overawed its inmates, took all the jewellery and valuables that they could lay their hands on, and fled. Upon an alarm being given the braves at the door made a sham pursuit, and fired off three or four farewell shots. It was no error that Kang Yu-wei made in suggesting a radical reform in the army. The Chinese have a saying "Thieves are soldiers and soldiers are thieves."

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 16th April.

Our Governor, Senhor Galhardo, and his family are in a great state of preparation for the departure to Goa, whither Senhor Galhardo has been transferred. The man-of-war *Zaire* will carry Senhor Galhardo and his family to your port on Sunday, the 22nd instant, and thence they will take their passages on the 23rd by the French Mail. During the time until the arrival of the new Governor the colony will be under the Government Council. It is said that Senhor Barbosa will be Acting Colonial Secretary until the arrival of Senhor Alfredo Lello, who has again been appointed Colonial Secretary. Senhor Lello was sent away by Senhor Galhardo. The new Governor for this colony is Senhor Alvaro Ferreira, who already visited Macao about eight or ten years ago, and was commissary on board a man-of-war in the port. It is believed that colonies under naval or engineer officers are better off than those under officers of infantry. Senhor Ferreira has been Governor of some of our African colonies and is now at Lisbon on leave. Senhor Barbosa will be in charge also of the Legation in the Far East till the duly appointed official arrives.

It seems that the plague is getting into the colony again, for more than seven or eight cases have been reported daily during the week, but it is to be hoped that the fine weather and the bright sunny days will put an end to the mischief.

The number of foreigners received at the local prison from January to March last, says *The Nagasaki Press*, was fourteen, namely, three Russians and two Americans, convicted of theft; one American, one Russian, two Englishmen, two Germans, and three Swedes convicted of assault and battery. During the same period, a Russian, an Englishman, a Swede, and an American were released from goal, owing to the expiration of their terms of imprisonment.

PEKING.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Recently the Empress Dowager forgave Anw-yi-on, a Censor, and also took the Emperor to her own palace, the Hue-ho-huen. It is very strange for her to do such things, seeing how long the Emperor and the Censor have been in her disfavour. In 1894 the Censor in a memorial requested her to retire to her palace without any further interference in the government, and to allow the Emperor Kwang Hsu to have a free hand, in all political affairs. For this reason he offended her and was banished to the north frontier. Thus he may be said to have been the antecedent of Kang Yu-wei, the chief reformer; yet now she allows him to come back freely, with a pretence of showing mercy, while she lives with the Emperor with a presence of affection.

Some say that this strange act of hers is intended to disguise her long desire for deposition for her son, which she hopes to accomplish some day without arousing the public at all. If this prediction turns out to be the case, the most dangerous time in store for the present Emperor is not far ahead; and the position of the Far East will be still more serious and difficult.

INDIA V FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. R. T. Wright) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund:—

Already Acknowledged ...	\$33,137.85
Tarantula Society	200
D. S. Dady Burjor	151
A. Fukeera	100
A Ramjahn	10
Captain Officers and Crew H.M.S. Phoenix	60
Ward Room Officers H.M.S. <i>Tamar</i>	60
Capt. Jones and Officers S.S. <i>Honam</i>	55
Captain and Officers H.M.S. <i>Aurora</i>	53
Chuen Cheong & Co.	50
Collected on ground at V. R. C. Sports	45.50
E. Robinson	25
M. N. Mehta	25
Louis Berindoague	25
G. de Champeaux	25
Fred. A. Browne	20
Robert Mitchell	15
H. Ruttonjee	10
P. H.	10
Rev. R. F. F. Gottschalk	10
Timpat	5
Comdr. Davison, H.M.S. <i>Humber</i>	5
R. T. A. Levinge	5
J. A. Roye	5
H. M. C. Elliott	5
N. S. Tata	3
A Sympathiser	3
	\$14,208.35

ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

A Patient	\$25
E. W. Terry	5
Tai Shing Paper Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	25

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

At noon on the 12th inst. an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices, 9, Praya Central Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present: The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. D. Gillies (directors), E. Georg, A. Babington, F. Henderson, Fung Wah Chuen, Sui Un, and Luk Yuk Kai.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by the Hon. C. P. CHATER, the following resolution was passed:—"That the Capital of the Company be increased to \$1,000,000 by the creation and issue of 50,000 new shares of \$10 fully paid up."

The CHAIRMAN announced that this was all the business, and that due notice would be given of the confirmatory meeting.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above company was held on the 14th inst. at noon at No. 9, Praya Central. There were present:—Messrs. R. Shewan, N. A. Siebs, D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis (Directors), M. Watson, A. Reid, R. H. Potts, A. Babington, Fung Wah Chuen, and C. Ewens.

The CHAIRMAN said:—My remarks at the annual meeting last month will have fully enlightened you as to the reasons for these resolutions, so I will not go over the ground again. It simply comes to this, that we must keep up with the expansion of trade with the Philippines or fall behind in the struggle; we cannot keep still, for that only means being passed by every one of our competitors, nor can we wait till the last moment to procure tonnage for our wants. We are bound to look ahead and be prepared to meet an increased demand for steamers, and as it takes over a year to build and bring out a boat from home, we feel that the sooner we begin the better. After using up all our capital and reserve fund we owed about \$100,000 on the *Memphis*, and we shall therefore when the capital is all called up, only have about \$500,000 available cash, so although a capital of \$1,000,000 sounds large it does not mean very much to us after all. The true policy for a steamer company is, to get rid of its old boats, and replace them by new and modern vessels, and that is the policy we intend always to pursue.

No questions being asked the CHAIRMAN proposed the first resolution, viz.—"That the capital of the Company be increased from \$3,000 to \$1,000,000 by the creation of 14,000 new shares of \$50 each. Such new shares to be offered to all such persons as are registered members of the Company on the Fourteenth day of April, 1900, in the proportion of seven new shares for every three old shares then held by them."

Mr. SIEBS seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed:—"That any new shares which it shall be found impossible to distribute in accordance with the terms of resolution No. 1 without dividing them into fractions, shall be dealt with in such manner as the General Managers shall determine."

Mr. GILLIES seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed—"That if any such new shares shall not be accepted by members in such proportion as is mentioned in resolution No. 1, the same shall be disposed of by the General Managers in such manner as the Consulting Committee shall direct."

Mr. LEWIS seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed:—"That the sum of \$98,000 be taken from the reserve fund of the company and converted into capital, and be applied in the payment of \$7.00 per share on the new shares."

Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed:—"That the \$43.00 per share be called up in instalments of not more than three months."

Mr. EWENS seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN announced that this was all the business and that due notice would be given of the confirmatory meeting.

At Singapore on the 5th inst., a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* noticed that the port of Manila was infected owing to the outbreak of plague there.

The *Chuo Shimbun* has a rather mysterious note, eulogizing England's action with regard to the Massapo affair. The mystery, says *The Japan Mail*, consists in the fact that our contemporary leaves us quite in the dark as to what England did. We gather that she was dignified and imperturbable, but that her officials kept their eyes very widely open, and that every move made by Russia was most carefully telegraphed to the Government in London. It is pleasant to find that the *Chuo* is satisfied, but we wish that it would have enabled us to share its satisfaction by being a little more explicit about facts.

**THE PUMJOM MINING COMPANY,
LIMITED.**

The third ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at No. 9, Praya Central, at noon on the 14th inst. There were present—Messrs. D. Gillies (in the chair), J. H. Lewis, Thomas Howard, T. Hough, Hart Buck, G. T. Veitch, Hölenke, Terry, E. Kelly, D. W. Craddock and W. H. Gaskell (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the statement of accounts and report of the working of the company for the year 1899 were sent to shareholders on the 26th of last month, and as I expect they have been carefully perused, with your permission, I propose to take them as read. The report, I think, touches upon all the points of our position necessary to lay before you, and I hardly know of anything to add except by way of amplification. The result of the working for the past year, as you will have seen, shows an additional debit balance of about \$52,000, which is very disappointing, and the more so, because we entered upon the year full of hope that our new Manager, Mr. Bailey, would be able to develop our property to an extent not before reached. To do that prospecting was necessary and prospecting was what we desired, but for reasons unknown to us little has been accomplished. However, under the management of our co-director Mr. Hughes, I am pleased to tell you that prospecting is now being carried on with a vigour creditable alike to our mining staff and to Mr. Hughes. As stated in the report, new out-crops of gold-bearing quartz have been found not far distant from the mill, in the Bukit Balan Kladi section of our property, which yielded, according to our Miner's report, something over one ounce to a ton. I suppose further trials must have been equally satisfactory, for by recent advices, we are informed that adits are being driven, shafts sunk, and a line of rails laid between them and the Mill. I am also pleased to tell you that attention is again being given to our Jalil Mine, or as Mr. Hughes puts it, to the South Jalil hill, where leaders have been found, the ore of which on crushing gave a result of fifteen pennyweights of gold to the ton. This is the more gratifying because it was from the Jalil Mine that our best results in the past were obtained. It will be remembered that it was from the Jalil Mine that monthly crushings of about 1,000 tons of ore yielded 400 to 500 ounces of gold; and if the fifteen pennyweights already mentioned be looked upon as a fair indication of future working, we may hope for a like result in the not distant future. One thing more remains to be touched upon, and that is, the bursting of the embankment of the reservoir. We have had a report on the subject by a firm of engineers, in Singapore, and they advise that a new dam be constructed, and submitted a tender for the work. But your Directors deemed it advisable to have the work carried out under the superintendence of our own Engineer, and with that end in view engaged the service of a Mr. Terry who had superintended similar work for the Raub Company, but most unfortunately we lost the services of this gentleman through a very sad and deplorable event which is doubtless well known to all of you; therefore I need not refer to it further. In the meantime measures have been taken to divert a portion of the water from the dam into the flume, so that we may be able to get enough for the battery. The necessary steps, however, for the construction of a new dam are in hand and operations will be commenced as soon as possible. As it may be some little time before the Board have the opportunity of meeting the shareholders, and again communicating to them the fullest information possible with regard to our prospects at the mines, I think it well that you should know what Mr. Hughes, our present Manager, and Mr. Phillips, a past Manager at Jalil, have to say with regard to the future of the Company's property, more particularly as they both speak from personal experience. I shall therefore read to you an extract from a recent letter received from Mr. Hughes, which runs as follows: "I am happy to say that we are nearing the end of the unprofitable period, and shall soon be working and earning something towards our enormous expenditure which has been unavoidable if the company is to go on and prosper. I hold the opinion that the future of

this company will surpass the most sanguine hopes, but to obtain this success it will require great attention, energy and determination on the part of those intrusted with the management, and also a greater outlay for prospecting than has ever yet been made." Mr. Phillips says, "I am a thorough believer in Pumjom and have always maintained and do still, that Pumjom developed can be made to pay good dividends." Gentlemen, these are unbiased statements and will I trust go a long way to restore the hopes and confidence of shareholders, in our property. I may also inform you that during the time the mill has been stopped both machinery and plant have been overhauled and put in order; therefore with water power available and an abundant supply of good ore for the mill I trust that our long sustained efforts to make this company a good dividend paying concern will be crowned with success. Before proposing the adoption of the report and statement of the accounts, I will be pleased to give further information or answer any questions if desired.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. VEITCH seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, and the motion was carried.

Mr. VEITCH proposed and Mr. CRADDOCK seconded the re-election of Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis, the retiring directors.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. HART BUCK proposed and Mr. VEITCH seconded the re-election of Mr. Fullerton Henderson as auditor for the ensuing year.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then said:—Mr. Hughes writes under date of 22nd March last: "It is my intention to go on crushing from the 2nd April continuously, night and day, all the ore available, estimated at fully 1,000 tons, this will run I believe closely upon 6 dwts. per ton." After he had added a few remarks, the meeting terminated.

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LIMITED.

On the 18th inst. at noon, an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, was held at the Company's Offices, for the purpose of passing resolutions relative to increasing the capital of the Company. Hon. J. J. Keswick presided and the other gentlemen present were—Hon. C. P. Chater, C. M. G., Messrs. D. M. Moses, N. A. Siebs, J. A. MacKay, A. Haupt, P. Sachse (Directors), R. C. Wilcox, E. Georg, R. K. Leigh, C. H. Thomson, C. S. Sharp, E. S. Joseph (shareholders), and F. Osborne (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, this meeting has been convened for the purpose of asking your consent to an increase of the Company's capital to meet the outlays we have made in the purchase of additional land, in the erection of new buildings, and in the construction of lighters, launches and other requirements of the business which have been rendered necessary in consequence of the large expansion that has characterised the Wharf Company's operations during recent years, and also with a view to provide for future developments. During the nine years since our debentures were issued, i.e. from 1891 to 1899, we have expended \$571,366 in the extensions referred to and the whole of this was borrowed with the exception of \$54,193, which was set aside from profits. Interest on the money borrowed, which in the case of new buildings might be fairly debited to their first cost, has been paid for entirely out of earnings, so that when these extensions are placed upon the list of productive assets the Company's profits should improve by, at least, the present annual charge for interest. A proportion of the outlay, viz. \$187,430 has been spent in the acquisition of land adjoining the Company's premises at Kowloon. This land was bought before the recent rise in the value of property there, and though at the moment unproductive, it stands in the books at less than its market value to-day and may therefore be said to have already benefited the Company's financial position by the amount of the unearned increment. By acquiring this additional land the Company is in a position to meet the demand for godown accommodation on the Kowloon side of the Harbour caused

by the rapidly disappearing godowns in other parts of the colony. This scarcity of accommodation is the natural result of land being utilised for trades which yield more profitable results than the warehousing of goods. It is one of the inevitable conditions of a thriving commerce and an expanding city that land in central positions becomes too valuable for the warehouse, which has therefore to give way for the factory, the shop, the dwelling, and the office. It is this commercial evolution, the growth of industrial activity, which is driving the Hongkong warehouse further afield and in which, it may be safely predicted, lies the future of the Wharf Co. And for the reason that on account of the large area of ground owned by the Company at Kowloon, which must in the future become a central part of the colony, we shall be in a position to erect warehouses worthy in size of the colony's future trade, and these warehouses, unlike private godowns scattered here and everywhere, will possess a permanency of situation which cannot fail to favourably affect the Company's prosperity. The Wharf Company's history from the date of its inception has been a continuous fight against difficulties, and our greatest trouble during the past three years has been, and is to-day, the want of sufficient godown room. The matter has been referred to at the last two annual meetings of shareholders and bids fair to become a chronic complaint, for no sooner is a new godown completed than it is at once filled, and enquiries for our space have lately been so numerous that we have been compelled to hire godowns, and even then have found it necessary to refuse profitable storage. Another and very lucrative manner in which our land can be utilised is in the erection of Chinese houses for which there is an increasing demand at Kowloon, and the Company's property being near the ferry offers exceptional advantages in that respect. The expenditure on new tugs and lighters, amounting to \$123,845, denotes a growth of that branch of work which strictly speaking does not come within the scope of a wharfinger and warehouseman's business. It is a branch of work, however, that is not only very necessary but which provides a valuable source of revenue and one that is capable of considerable development. Formerly we were to a large extent dependent upon native cargo boats, but, owing to the unreasoning extortion of the lightermen together with what appeared to resemble a combination on their part with our opponents in the same line of business, we found it positively necessary, if we were to retain the business we had wrested from these opponents, to be as far as possible independent of native craft. And it is well we realised this in time; for had we not at once proceeded with the building of lighters I bear we should have lost much valuable business. Our experience of the native lighterman teaches us that we cannot afford to be dependent upon him, and we much therefore continue to build our own boats as a measure of self-preservation and to keep pace with the business. Under these circumstances, therefore, your Directors deem it prudent to repay existing debts by the issue of fresh capital, and, by thus strengthening the Company's credit, place it in a position to take full advantage of any further expansion which it may become necessary to provide for. I now beg to propose the following resolutions:—

1.—That the capital of the Company be increased from \$1,00,000 to \$1,500,000 by the creation of 10,000 new shares of \$50 each.

2.—That such new shares be issued at the premium of \$5 per share and be allotted to the shareholders of the Company in the proportion of one new share for every two shares now held by them.

3.—That the amount due for the new shares be called up as follows viz:—\$50 per share on the 1st July, 1900, to rank for six months dividend out of the profits of the year 1900, and the remaining \$25 per share on the 1st October, 1900.

Mr. WILCOX seconded, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business of the meeting. The announcement of the confirmatory meeting which will be necessary will be published.

Sir Henry and Lady Blake have been paying a visit to Ningpo, from which they returned to Shanghai by the Peking on the 18th inst.

**OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES,
LIMITED.**

The fourth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on the 18th inst. at noon. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present: Messrs. C. Ewens (of the Consulting Committee), H. Humphreys, G. Murray Bain, Paul Jordan, H. Mancell, Lan Chu Pak, and W. C. Taylor (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, As I presume you have all examined the report and statement of accounts, I will, with your permission, adopt the usual custom at these meetings and take them as read. You also received at the same time the mining manager's report for the 12 months under review, so that it will not be necessary for me to add much to what is contained therein. I think we can fairly congratulate ourselves on the year's working and, considering the comparatively short time the Company has been in existence, our results are most encouraging. Comparing 1899 with 1898, we find that in 1898 we crushed 6,383 tons of stone, realizing 2,367 ozs. 6 dwts. of gold, being an average yield of 7.4 dwts. per ton, while in 1899 we crushed 6,596 tons, which gave us 4,535 ozs. 13 dwts., an average of 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ dwts. per ton, the value of the gold won being \$171,482.86. You will notice in the accounts that the balance at debit of working account at the beginning of the year has been almost wiped off, that amount standing at \$4,133.92 instead of \$40,671.41, thus showing a substantial profit on the working account of \$36,537.49, and I think you will agree with me that considering our very small capital this result is extremely good and compares very favourably with other gold mining companies who have enormous capitals to assist them. During my trip to our mines the year before last I paid a visit to some mines situated about 20 miles from Mount Macdonald, and was informed by the manager that his company, a London one, had already spent £90,000 in development, machinery, etc., and they had not at present started crushing. This amount compared with our small capital is, I think, a proof that our money has been profitably expended, for you must remember that we were unable to make use of the old Eureka Shaft, but had to sink a new one. With regard to our future policy by the advice of Mr. Roberts, we have commenced further developments and have decided to sink the main shaft another 100 feet. We shall then open out at the 400 feet level and I trust that on striking the reef we shall find what is considered very probably, that it has again contracted and grown richer. We shall also connect the Eureka and B shafts at the 150 ft. level, it being Mr. Roberts' opinion that when we get the "Woolloomooloo" and "Pig and Whistle" shoots, which were very rich near the surface, we shall find good stone. This work and the purchase of extra machinery will of course cost money, and although we have sufficient for some time to come it is probable that the final call on the B shares will shortly be made. We are also erecting an experimental cyanide plant, to treat about 10 tons of crushed ore at a time, and if this is found successful, and in Mr. Robert's opinion it is likely to be, we must think about putting up a larger plant, this form of treating ore being particularly inexpensive. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions being asked, the report was adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN.

Mr. W. H. Potts was re-elected auditor, on the motion of Mr. MANCELL, seconded by Mr. JORDAN.

This was all the business.

It is interesting to note that while last year the great majority of the plague cases occurred in the western portion of the city, only four out of the 39 reported so far this year are in that neighbourhood, all the rest being in Wan Chai (No. 2 district). No. 9 district suffered severely last year, but up to now it has escaped entirely this year. Three cases occurred in No. 8 district and one in No. 6.

**THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK,
LIMITED.**

The following is the report presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting held at the Head Office of the Company, Yokohama, on the 10th ult.

Gentlemen.—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending December 31st, 1899.

The gross profits of the bank for the past half-year, including yen 411,025.295 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 8,882,937.858, of which yen 4,083,436.745 have been deducted for current expenses, interest on deposits, &c., leaving a balance of yen 4,799,501.113.

The directors now propose that yen 500,000.000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 8,000,000.000; and yen 50,000.000 be set aside for the contemplated new building. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 900,000.000 and, as this is the last year of the Bank's business term originally granted by the Charter, the directors further recommend a bonus of yen 25.000 per share, which will absorb yen 3,060,000.000.

The balance, yen 349,501.113 will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA,
Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

**THE PRESENTATION TO THE HON.
T. H. WHITEHEAD.****TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."**

Hongkong, April 12th.

Sir.—I write the following lines on behalf of my father and myself. On the 11th inst. I had the honour of presiding, in the absence of my father, at the City Hall at a Meeting of Chinese Merchants and it was our united wish to do honour to the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, who is leaving for home on Saturday next.

My object in now addressing you is to inform you that until my father and myself saw the address in last night's local press we had no knowledge of its contents.

We were perhaps to blame for omitting to make ourselves familiar with the address before we lent our names to it. We had no opportunity of doing so nor was it submitted to us for our approval.

Our only excuse for this omission was that we apprehended the address would be in the usual adulatory form and contain the usual flowery Chinese compliments and wishes and that it would abstain from all animadversions and aspersions on those for whom we always have the highest respect esteem and admiration.

My father and I never had any desire to belittle the good work of our own representatives on the Legislative Council of this Colony, nor had we any desire to press home the claims of the Chinese to a larger share in the administration of public affairs.

We personally are perfectly satisfied with the existing régime and consider that we were led by the composer of the address into expressing views we never a moment intended to express.

My father and I particularly desire to repudiate the following passages in the address.

"You more fully represented their views, their opinions and their wants than did others who purported to speak for them. We make bold to say that you are better acquainted with our real requirements than many of those whose knowledge of our language and whose official status place them in a superior position for acquiring such information."

Whilst giving the Honourable T. H. Whitehead due credit for all he has done on behalf of the Chinese we must say that we do not consider the first paragraph above quoted justified and we do not sanction what is nothing less than a direct reflection and an attack upon the unofficial members of the Council representing the Chinese.

Had we known that the address would contain such a paragraph we would never have assisted in the propagation of such what we consider to be calumny.

We desire now as far as we are concerned to express our disapproval and dissent from such a statement and to say how much we regret that our names should have been associated therewith. The second paragraph above quoted is also in our opinion quite beside the truth and should never have been inserted in the address.

The composer of the address (whoever he may be) evidently thinks it desirable to cast a slur on some one or other of the officials of this Colony. We have no sympathy with such desire and we wish to say publicly and in particular to those against whom such attacks are made that we repudiate the views expressed *in toto* so far as we are concerned.

Apologising for this somewhat lengthy trespass on your space.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

LI PAK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th April.

SIR.—We have read Mr. Li Pak's letter which appeared in your issue of the 13th instant and entirely endorse its contents.

We too were deceived.—Yours faithfully,
CHU WING ON.

**THE CHINESE IMPERIAL POST
OFFICE.****TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."**

SIR.—The Chinese Imperial Post Office, now a recognised and much appreciated servant of the public, has proved a healthy and vigorous off-spring of the parental institution the I.M.C., once more demonstrating the wonderful organising power of the G.O.M. of Peking.

The establishment of an Imperial Postal Service was advocated by Sir Robert Hart in the early sixties, but Tsungli Yamén conservatism was not overcome until late in the nineties (1896-97). In the meantime postal work was carried on by the Customs (inter-port work).

After the long withheld consent had been granted by the Yamén, Sir Robert Hart decided to begin quietly, and advance slowly, endeavouring to avoid trouble or friction with the existing native posting establishments, and the result of that policy is that the majority of the better class or most useful of those institutions have now been absorbed, or affiliated, and within a short time the whole of the native posting establishments will be controlled by the I.P.O. In addition the I.P.O. is itself gradually extending its arms, and many of its signboards may now be found in the interior.

This work of extension has been carried out quietly and without any friction, and the I.P.O. as an institution will probably escape the term "Foreign," which has ever in the native mind been associated with the parent institution, which fact speaks well for those engaged on the work, executive, as well as administrative. The executive have been from the first selected from among the members of the I.M.C. Preventive department, and their knowledge of the language and people has assisted appreciably in gaining the confidence of this most conservative of nations, and on the whole the result of the first four years' work must be very gratifying to Sir Robert Hart. Unfortunately, in view of what has been accomplished, murmurs of dissatisfaction are being heard with increasing frequency. Postal employees have seen for some time their ci-devant fellow-workers of the I.M.C. passing them by, but always hoping for better things they have remained loyal, and have worked hard to make the Postal Service a success, being confident that the success of the service would ensure the advancement of the individual.

However, that confidence is diminishing rapidly and many now wish they had remained in the I.M.C. The present chief (Postal Secretary), though doubtless an able man, seems to illustrate the square peg and round hole, saying, "or as someone once remarked: 'A man may be a good musician but still be incapable of conducting an orchestra.'

Meanness has never been associated with greatness, and, to ensure the success of such an institution as the I.P.O., sweating must be avoided.

The Hongkong P.O. has been a good example of what will result from a system of under-paying and over-working, and if the I.P.O. is to continue a success, not only is better pay a necessity, but the man who has worked it to its present satisfactory position must not be forced to associate with the class from which recent recruits have been drawn. China will some day require to be admitted to the Postal Union, and the staff of the I.P.O. must be respectable and respected, neither of which conditions are possible if the system of sweating and promiscuous recruiting which at present obtains is persisted in. Let those responsible remember that fair dealing is quite consistent with an economical policy.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. M.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1900.

PRIZE SHOOTING AT KOWLOON.

The annual prize shooting in connection with the Hongkong Rifle Association was brought to a successful close on the 16th instant, at the Kowloon Range. The following are the results:

QUEEN'S AGGREGATE WINNERS—Prizes presented by H.E. Major General Gascoigne, C.M.G., Vice-Admiral Seymour, Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., the Hon. J. J. Keswick, and the *Daily Press*.

Sgt.-Maj. Wallace	206
Mr. J. Marshall	202
Mr. A. McKenzie	196
Mr. G. P. Lammert	196
Mr. A. H. Skelton	191
ALL-COMERS' AGGREGATE—Prizes presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Mr. H. N. Mody, and Mr. H. M. Bevis.	
1 Sgt.-Maj. Wallace	123
2 Mr. G. P. Lammert	123
3 Mr. A. H. Skelton	122

REVOLVER COMPETITION.

Mr. F. Smythe	19
Mr. E. C. Hooper	15
Major Chapman	15
RANGE PRIZES.—	
200 yards.	
Sgt.-Maj. Wallace	32
Mr. J. Marshall	30
Mr. S. McKenzie	29
500 yards.	
Mr. J. Cramer	85
Mr. W. Stewart	34
Sgt. Bowery	34
Mr. F. Smythe	34
600 yards.	
Mr. J. Marshall	48
Sgt.-Maj. Wallace	47
Sgt. Bowery	45
700 yards.	
Sgt.-Maj. Wallace	50
Mr. J. Pidgeon	50
Mr. W. Stewart	50
800 yards.	
Mr. A. McKenzie	47
Mr. Lammert	47
Ar.-Sgt. Blair	47

ALL-COMERS' PRIZES.

RANGE PRIZES.	
200 yards.	
Mr. Lammert, Sgt.-Maj. Wallace, Mr. Grey, and Mr. Leddington	25 each.
500 yards.	
Mr. Lammert, Mr. Pidgeon, Mr. Skelton, Sgt.-Maj. Wallace, and Mr. Cramer	25 each.
600 yards.	
1 and 2, Corp. Sutherland and Mr. Pidgeon.	
3, Messrs. Skelton and Lammert.	
700 yards.	
1, 2, and 3, Messrs. Grey, Lammert, McKenzie, Marshall, and Pidgeon.	
800 yards.	
1, 2, and 3, Messrs. Grey, Skelton, and Wallace.	

Manila papers report that the Filipinos are entering with spirit into the excitement of municipal elections. Owing to the turbulence of the voters the authorities seem to have their hands very full.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Famine Relief Fund at Singapore on the 6th inst., remitted to India the sum of Rs. 20,000, equivalent to \$13,513.51. The total remitted up to date is Rs. 75,000, equivalent to \$50,675.66.

THE HONGKONG FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD.

We are informed by Mr. H. Looker that a meeting of the Committee of the above competition was held on Wednesday to consider the case of the right full back of the G. Co. R.W.F. who was sent off the field in the final tie for the shield. It appeared from the referee's report that the man deliberately attempted to kick one of the opposing team who was lying on the ground. The referee was unable to state if the other man was actually kicked or not.

The Committee were of opinion that the fact of the man being ordered off the field in so important a match was, considering all the circumstances of the case, a sufficient punishment, and decided to take no further steps in respect of it.

THE I. O. G. T. TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT.

The Good Templars had a very pleasant evening at the Kowloon Institute on the 14th inst. There were present many of the members of the combined Lodges, viz., the Cathay Lodge X., the Aurora Lights (of H. M. S. Aurora) and the Red Dragon Lodge (Welch Fusiliers). Photographs were taken at 5.15 p.m., after which about seventy took their seats on the upper floor and a substantial meat-tea was served up. The Rev. Williams arrived at about 5.45 p.m. and took the chair, and Mrs. Williams was also present. After the tea a plentiful supply of cigars made their appearance and filled in the interval before the entertainment commenced. The string band of the Welch Fusiliers was in attendance and gave some excellent music. The concert commenced at 7.30 p.m., the programme being opened with a selection by the band.

PROGRAMME.

Selection Band
A few words from the Rev. Williams.

Song Bro. Gibson

Song Bro. Ray

Song Bro. Rayner

Recitation Bro. Clark

Song Bro. Tranter

Selection Band

Song Bro. Porter

Song Bro. Ray

Selection Band

REFRESHMENTS.

Speech Bro. Morton

Song Bro. Balsam

Song Bro. Porter

Song Bro. Colverwell

Selection Band

Song Bro. Ray

PROGRAMME.

Song Bro. Davis

Speech Bro. Pomeroy

Song Bro. Gibson

Reading, "Alcohol v. Strength" Bro. R. Pestonji

Song Bro. Balsam

Song Bro. Colverwell

Song Bro. Lloyd

Speeches were made by Bro. Gibson (Cathay Lodge), Bro. Taylor (Aurora Lights) and Bro. Clarke (Red Dragon Lodge).

Ged Save the Queen.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Working Committee, the Band, etc., brought the entertainment to a close.

One of the heaviest thunderstorms ever witnessed in Shanghai took place on the morning of the 9th instant, the whole town being plunged into darkness before the beginning of the rain, which was quite tropical in character.

It has been arranged that Mr. Walter Egerton, at present Acting Resident-Councillor of Malacca, shall come to Singapore to be acting Colonial Secretary. He was to take up the post on the 11th inst. The appointment will be exceedingly satisfactory to everyone, says *The Straits Times*.

A Wuchang despatch states that that city was visited on the 6th instant by a typhoon which blew down a large number of houses just outside the Pao-an Gate, and that a number of large trees famous from their size, on the hill in the rear of the Hunan Guild house in that city, were also blown down and some uprooted. Fortunately there was no loss of life.

WARREN'S CIRCUS OPENING.

One of the largest audiences that ever congregated under canvas in Hongkong greeted the opening performance of Warren's Circus at West Point, opposite the Harbour Master's office, on the 13 inst. The capital programme produced by Mr. Warren's new London Company elicited a right royal welcome from the large and enthusiastic audience. The tent is new as are the fittings, costumes and paraphernalia, and the whole presents a uniformly spick-and-span appearance. The performance throughout was varied and executed with characteristic dash and finish. The seating arrangements are excellent and the attention paid to the comfort of all classes is a pleasing feature. In a programme of such general excellence, it is difficult to particularize. But we must note a few of the best items. The aerial act of the Warren Sisters is too distinctly remembered to need emphasis. Their neatness of execution as usual made them first favourites. "Merry Little Benham" was as pleasing as ever and brimful with pleasantries for young and old alike. The burlesque trapeze act of the Meteors proved very ludicrous, and equally so did the amusing performance of the Centos on the horizontal bars. The horsemanship of Messrs. Ware and Fenton and Middle Rosin was unquestionably far superior in dash and daring to any seen here in recent years. The head and hand balancing of the Zenobias, their leaps, and aerobatic work, almost seem to defy the laws of gravitation. A particularly absorbing turn was Mr. Cento's juggling while Miss Scarsdale's performance on a globe with pigeons, and Prof. Abell's performing pony are certainly worth more praise than space permits. Prof. Sharman's comic knockabout trick dogs are without doubt the most clever and unique of the species, and are deservedly star favourites. It is as gratifying to welcome such a relief to the present dearth of local amusements.

REVIEWS.

Things Chinese. By T. DYER BALL, M.R.S.A. Third Edition. Kelly and Walsh, Hongkong. As the author points out, the second edition of *Things Chinese* having been exhausted some time ago, the book has been out of print until the appearance of this new edition, which is therefore all the more welcome. The whole work has been revised and some 150 pages have been added, bringing the total up to 666. Nineteen new articles have been added, the subjects being Ascending on High, Agriculture, Arms, Banks and Bank Notes, Bethrothal, Birth (Customs connected with), Buffalo, Camphor, Cosmetics, Cotton, Dogs, Doctors, Ginger, Ginseng, Kites, Larks and other Songsters, Plague, Tenure of Land, and Tigers. By far the longest of these additions is the article on Plague, which extends over twenty-five pages and goes into the history of the disease in the past and of its recent ravages in China, with special attention to the visitation in Hongkong in 1894, the statements and views of various observers and authorities, etc. With regard to a recent attack at San Ning the observer, quoted by Mr. Dyer Ball, gives a sad picture of the way in which the natives attempt to meet the disease. "The City," he says, "might correctly be named, at present, 'The City of Death.' The plague is ravaging with special virulence and carrying off its victims in large numbers. The streets are reeking in filth and all drains are choked with rubbish. Behold the remedy employed! In one street, I observed no less than three matusheds erected, in which were seated, in calm complaisance, many idols which are implored to exert their power to stem and turn back the tide of death. Moreover, over almost every door are hung branches of cactns, or other thorny shrubs, also a piece of fine netting, and a bag of small cockle shells. It is believed that the malignant devils cannot well avoid all these obstacles and enter the house. It is almost past belief that men's minds are so dark, minds, too, that have spent years in America or Australia. It is altogether tragic to see such things, and o look behind and contemplate the sorrow, bereavement, and blank despair that hover over the houses and paralyse the hearts of those who

erous in terror within." Yet, as has frequently been pointed out, the dirtiest native towns may escape more lightly than the European-governed colony. Plague is a subject on which there is no finality of judgment as yet.

By way of contrast let us take a few remarks on Tigers. "The tiger," says Mr. Dyer Ball, "appears to be widely spread over the empire, but it is mostly found in the provinces of Fukien, Kiangsi, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi. They even come, at times, within what is now the newly acquired territory on the mainland opposite Hongkong. They frequent, among other spots, the neighbourhood of Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow, and a few days' journey from Canton up the North, East, or West Rivers would bring one to tiger districts. Tigers are also found in Manchuria. As compared with his Indian brother, the Chinese tiger is better marked, and the skin naturally commands a higher price in Europe, for while a full grown Chinese tiger will fetch a price of £100 in some of the large zoological gardens in Europe, the highest amount given for an Indian tiger being (sic) £70. . . . The Chinese dig a pit and cover it with poles or branches; the tiger's weight carries him through, and he is despatched often by a red hot iron being run down his throat, though he often escapes from these pits."

We have not space to quote more from Mr. Dyer Ball's new and interesting matter, but we can confidently assert that the third edition is even better than its predecessors. The only faults we have to find are that there are a few slips of grammar (such as the one above) which careful revision would eliminate. We do not like the use of the combination "and/or" which occurs here and there in the book. Finally we would suggest that the sources of the quotations should be more directly indicated than they are in many cases. Otherwise we have nothing but praise for the volume, which is well turned-out by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

The Directory for Bangkok and Siam for 1900. Printed and Published at the Bangkok Times Office.

The compiler of this useful little work states that "directories are like watches, the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true." We can readily understand that the task of compiling a Directory in Bangkok is attended with difficulties innumerable, but this is the eleventh annual issue before us, and it certainly from a technical standpoint continues to improve. A Directory in Siam, we take it, should be a very essential book of reference, and the publishers have evidently done their utmost to make the work as complete and as attractive as possible, and they have succeeded very well. Apart from the business section and the alphabetical list of residents, much interesting and valuable information about this little known country is given. The book is published at \$5 and will no doubt find a ready sale.

The Singapore and Straits Directory for 1900. Printed and published by Fraser and Neave, Limited, Singapore.

We have received a copy of the twenty-first annual edition of the above work which is now on sale at the price of six dollars. The Directory has been compiled with the usual care for which it is noted and is well printed and finished. In addition to the Singapore portion, the book contains directories of the Federated Malay States, British North Borneo, Deli, Western Borneo, Saigon, Riow and Siam, with an appendix comprising a large amount of useful information. There is an alphabetical list of foreign residents in the places dealt with, and an index is also given. Excellent descriptions preface the various places that come within the scope of the book, and the Directory portion is very clearly arranged, so that the required information may be readily found. The book has long been found indispensable in the Straits.

The North China Daily News of the 9th inst announces the arrival on the 7th of Sir Henry Blake, with Lady Bla'e, Miss Blake, and Viscount Snurdale, A.D.C. Sir Thomas Jackson, who was also a passenger by the Empress, went on the same evening.

HONGKONG.

Admiral Sir E. Fremantle arrived by the *Chusan* from Bombay on the 13th inst., and left by the same boat for Shanghai on the 14th.

Telegraphic information has been received that Hongkong has been declared an infected port by the authorities at Singapore.

The new issue of shares of the Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., has, we understand, been taken up; those shareholders on the register on the 15th March last who applied receiving four new shares for every five held by them. The Capital of the Company now stands at one million dollars fully subscribed.

The Pokfulam conduit road will apparently sometime be an accomplished fact, tenders for the construction of one section being now called for. This road will open up a large area of admirable building ground, open to the south-west breeze, and we hope to see before many years are over an upper-level tramway running east and west.

The stamp revenue for the first quarter of this year amounted to \$120,152.61, showing an increase of \$21,157.54 over that of 1899. The principal items of increase were Bank Note Duty \$1,986, Conveyance or Assignment \$13,499, Transfer of Shares \$2,121, Adhesive Stamps \$4,342. The only item which shows any material decrease is Probate or Letters of Administration \$3,764.

On the 13th inst. the new Japanese torpedo boat destroyer *Oboro* (Commander N. Zamada), built for the Japanese Government on the Thames, arrived in the harbour. She left the Thames on the 16th of January and made a stay in the Mediterranean for some time. The destroyer is a four-funnel boat of 316 tons gross and 14,281 tons register.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead left Hongkong on the 13th inst. in *Hongkong Maru* for the north, whence he will proceed to Europe by the Trans-Siberian Railway. The honourable gentleman was accompanied to the wharf by the staff of the Chartered Bank and numerous friends, who wished him a pleasant trip and expressed the hope that he would return to the colony in the best of health.

The following are the returns of the average amount of banknotes in circulation and of specie in reserve during the month ended 31st March, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks are published:—

BANKS.	Average Amount	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...	\$2,581,227	\$1,700,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	8,280,515	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	444,659	150,000
Total ...	\$11,306,41	\$6,850,000

At the Harbour Office on the 18th inst. Mr. Basil Taylor enquired into the circumstances attendant on a charge against Kwan Kau, master of the steam launch *Hongkong*, owned by the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited, of negligently navigating his boat.—Major Riley said that just before ten o'clock on Sunday morning he was starting from the Royal Engineers' Pier to go to the hospital ship *Meeanee*. He was being rowed in a gig by four Army Service Corps boatmen. He saw a steam launch coming from the Victoria side when about a quarter of a mile from the *Meeanee*. The launch was coming in such a direction that she would cross his line. The coxswain was not looking in the direction in which his launch was going. Understanding a steam launch was bound to give way to a rowing boat, he kept on his course watching the coxswain of the launch to see if he was going to alter his course. As the launch got closer to him he saw that the coxswain did not see his boat, so he pulled his boat round just in time to avoid a collision. As he did so the coxswain jumped up and put his launch about and altered his course a little to the right, and just in time to avoid a collision.—The defendant said that on Sunday morning he was going from the Butterfield and Swire's Wharf to the Kowloon Godown Wharf. He did not see any gig when near the *Meeanee*.—There seemed to be some doubt as to the identity of the launch, and in consequence the enquiry was adjourned.

The lawn tennis match on the 11th inst. between the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Ladies' Recreation Club ended in favour of the former club by a majority of two games.

On the 12th inst. a couple of Chinamen were parading the streets advertising a gambling place at Macao. They were considerably surprised when the police pounced upon them, and were more surprised still when at the Magistrate yesterday they were each fined \$50.

Lieut.-Colonel Retallack, of the Hongkong Regiment, left on the 18th inst. on furlough.

The returns of Plague cases and deaths during Easter show that in the week ended the 14th inst. 19 cases were recorded in the City of Victoria and one in the Harbour, with 19 deaths. From 1st January to 19th April, 56 cases and 5 deaths occurred. Of other diseases, two (European) cases of enteric fever, imported from Samshui, and two deaths occurred, while there was one case and one death from smallpox.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 18th inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by public auction two lots of Crown land. One lot was Kowloon Marine Lot 68, which is situate at Mong-Kok-Tsui; contents in square feet, 3,650; annual rent, \$38; upset price, \$1,600. The lot was bought by Mr. J. Wheeler, manager, China Borneo Company, for \$2,480. The other lot comprised Quarry Bay Marine Lot 3, which is situate at Quarry Bay; contents in square feet, 1,008,400; annual rent, \$8,600; upset price, \$100,840. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire were the purchasers for \$10 above the upset.

Easter Day was fittingly observed at St. John's Cathedral on the 15th inst. The morning service was fully choral special Easter music being rendered by the choir. The anthem "Awake up my Glory," and Stainer's Kyrie and Communion Office were sung. In the morning the congregation was very large. At evensong Easter hymns were sung with Steane's *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. The Rev. R. F. Cobbold delivered a most impressive sermon, and after the service Mr. Ward, the organist, rendered the "Hallelujah Chorus." The church was very tastefully decorated with plants and flowers.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 20th April.—The upward tendency continues, the market being good. Quotations for Formosa are: \$92.50 to \$98.00; sales 420 pic ds.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 20th April.—Prices are further declining, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.80	to	\$7.85	cl.
do. " White ..	7.10	to	7.15	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.30	to	5.35	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.15	to	5.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.85	to	7.90	"
do. " 1, White...	7.15	to	7.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.20	to	5.25	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.05	to	5.10	"
Fuchow sugar canes	11.65	to	11.70	"
S	9.75	to	9.80	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Orestes*, sailed on the 27th Mar. For London:—1,025 rolls mats and matting, 170 bales feathers, 80 bales canes, 325 casks and 400 cases ginger, 5 cases shell, 17 cases black-woodware, 5 cases cowtail hair, 94 cases and 8 bags antimony ore, and 12 packages sundries. For London option Liverpool:—2,583 cases canned salmon. For London option Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London option Havre option Hamburg:—50 bales cassia. For Manchester:—2 cases lasts. For Glasgow:—6 cases sundries. For Antwerp:—150 bales split bamboo. For Hamburg:—2 cases shell.

Per steamer *Asturia*, sailed on the 31st March. For New York:—6 cases litho paper, 26 cases human hair, 37 cases paper, 69 cases black-woodware, 82 bales canes, 90 cases essential oil, 100 cases cassia buds, 233 cases josssticks, 240 bales split bamboo, 249 cases Chinaware, 300 bales broken cassia, 383 cases cassialignea, 417 boxes fans, 438 packages nut oil, 772 bales rattancore, 838 packages ginger, 1,500 bales hemp, 1,263 packages sundries and 10,798 packages firecrackers.

Per German steamer *König Albert*, sailed on the 4th April. For Genoa:—123 bales waste silk, 90 bales raw silk, and 2 boxes silk piece goods. For Antwerp:—140 bales split bamboo and 100 bales feathers. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—150 bales feathers. For Antwerp/Hamburg/London:—18 cases bristles. For London:—230 rolls mats, 210 bales canes, and 50 boxes cassia oil. For Bremen:—213 rolls mats. For Hamburg:—1,097 bales feathers, 54 rolls matting, 50 cases staranised, 26 cases black-woodware, and 15 cases bristles.

Per steamer *Tonkin*, sailed on the 9th April. For Marseilles:—185 bales raw silk, 18 cases silks, 21 cases woodware and paper, 18 packages books, &c., 12 bales hair, and 1 bale waste silk. For Lyons:—88 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—10 bales raw silk and 5 cases effects.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—Malwa.—Market is steady. We quote last year's new at \$80¹ and two years' old at \$910.

Bengal.—Since our last advices prices have further declined, and the sales during the fortnight were unimportant. We close with a weak market, Old Patna at \$942, Old Benares at \$930, and New Benares at \$874.

Persian.—Really superior drug is in demand at \$890 to \$910. Ordinary kind is utterly neglected. Malwa..... 837 chests Persian 1,965 " Patna 1,007 " Benares 559 "

HONGKONG, 17th April.—Malwa.—A steady business has been transacted in this drug at the following rates.

2-years old at \$900 to \$910
3 " " \$920
4/5 " " \$930 to \$940

Bengal.—The Chinese having shown a better disposition to operate, rates improved for old Patna to \$945, old Benares \$940 and New Benares to \$885.

Persian.—Superior quality is quoted at \$875 to \$900.

Malwa..... 800 chests.
Peshawar 1,925
Old Patna 1,101 "
Old Benares 437 "

COUSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
DATE.	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 7	960	—	895	930	890	920
Apr. 9	960	—	895	930	890	920
Apr. 10	960	—	895	920	890	920
Apr. 11	942	—	877	920	900	910
Apr. 12	942	—	877	930	900	910
Apr. 13	942	—	877	930	900	910
Apr. 17	—	961	895	930	900	920
Apr. 18	—	941	885	945	900	920
Apr. 19	—	945	886	945	900	920
Apr. 20	—	845	885	940	910	94

RICE

HONGKONG, 20th April.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:

Saigon, Ordinary \$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality 2.90 to 2.95
" Long 3.10 to 3.15
Siam, Field, well cleaned, No 2 ... 2.95 to 3.00
Garden, " No. 1 ... 3.25 to 3.30
White 3.80 to 3.85
Fine Cargo 4.10 to 4.15

COALS.

HONGKONG, 20th April.—No sales reported. Market dull. In Japanese small sales at \$7 to \$8. Quotations are:

Cardiff \$26.50 ex ship, steady
Australian 12.25 to 12 ex godown, steady
Yubari Lump \$11.00 ex godown
Miki Lump 8.00 to 8.50 nominal
Moj Lump 6.50 to 8.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double screened 11.50 to \$12 ex godown
Hongay Lump 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust 5.50
Briquettes 14.60 ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st April.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—50 bales No. 6 at \$92, 50 bales No. 10 at \$91 to \$99.80, 650 bales No. 12 at \$92 to \$100, 300 bales No. 16 at \$102 to \$104, 900 bales No. 20 at \$106 to \$111. Japanese Yarn:—150 bales No. 16 at \$102 to \$104, 100 bales No. 20 at \$107 to \$119. Grey Shirtings:—1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.80. White Shirtings:—1,500 pieces X 9 at \$5.85, 250 pieces X 6 at \$4.95, 250 pieces X 8 at \$6.50. Bengal Cotton:—50 bales at \$27.

COTTON YARN—per bale

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... \$88.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, 114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, 116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32, 120.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42, 147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—per piece

Grey Shirtings 6 lbs. 2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs. 2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs. 2.95 to 3.80
9 to 10 lbs. 3.90 to 4.85

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.75 to 2.95
58 to 60 .. 3.25 to 3.91
61 to 66 .. 4.25 to 5.00
Fine..... 5.20 to 8.00

Book-folds. 4.55 to 6.45

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.80 to 1.60

T.Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y 1.80 to 2.00

7lbs. (32 in.), .. 2.10 to 2.30

6lbs. (32 in.), Mexs. 2.00 to 2.20

7lbs. (32 in.), .. 2.55 to 2.90

8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.90 to 3.60

Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.30 to 7.20

FANCY COTTONS—per piece

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs. 1.75 to 7.20

Brocades—Dyed 4.20 — 5.70

Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.17

Velvets—Black, 22 in 0.26 to 0.65

Velveteens - 18 in 0.23 to 0.28

Handkerchiefs Imitation Silk 0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 1.00 to 1.75
Geirhan — —

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.55 to 1.75

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.70 to 10.80

Assorted 6.80 to 10.40

Camlets—Assorted 13.20 to 30.00

Lastings - 30 yds., 3 inches, Assorted 18.50 to 23.00

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.20 to 16.00

METALS—per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 6.35 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar(Eng) 6.55 to —

Swedish Bar 10.25 to —

Small Round Rod 7.35 to —

Hoop & to 11/2 in. 7.60 to —

Wire 15/25 11.50 to —

Old Wire Rope 13.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co and Holé Chop 10.80 to —

Australian 10.40 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. 42.50 to —

Vivian's. 14/20 oz. 42.50 to —

Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 42.50 to —

New Chop, 14/20 oz. — to —

Composition Nails 6.50 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 39.25 to —

Tin 82.00 to —

Tin-Plates 8.50 to —

Steel & to 7.35 to —

SUNDRIES—per picul

Quicksilver 178.00 to —

Window Glass 6.50 to —

Kerosene Oil 2.36 to —

ON PARIS.

Bank Bills, on demand 2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.50

ON GERMANY.

On demand 2.00

ON NEW YORK.

Bank Bills, on demand 1.74

Credits, 60 days' sight 1.81

ON BOMBAY.

Telegraphic Transfer 1.55

Bank, on demand 1.61

ON CALCUTTA.

Telegraphic Transfer 1.53

Bank, on demand 1.46

ON SHANGHAI.

Bank, at sight 1.74

Private, 30 days' sight 1.74

ON YOKOHAMA.

On demand 31 1/2 % pm.

ON MANILA.

On demand 21 1/2 % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.

On demand 1 1/2 % pm.

ON BATAVIA.

On demand 11 1/2 %

ON HAIPHONG.

On demand 11 1/2 % pm.

ON SAIGON.

On demand 23 1/2 % pm.

ON BANGKOK.

On demand 61

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 10.13

Gold Leaf, 100 fine per tael 52.90

BAR SILVER, per oz 27

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 20th April.—The market continues dull and inactive and business has been much restricted by the Easter holidays. Rates with few exceptions are practically unchanged and the market closes very quiet.

BANKS.—After further small sales at \$318 and 317 per cent. Hongkong and Shanghais close much quieter with sellers at 313 per cent. premium. Nationals continue in demand at \$29 with sales.

MARINE INSURANCES—China Trade's have been placed at \$54. Unions are still enquired for at the enhanced rate of \$240 without bringing shares into the market. North Chinas have been placed at \$169 and \$170, and Yangtzees at \$1

COTTONS.—Hongkong has changed hands in small lots at \$38. Quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$31 after fair sales to \$29, \$29, and \$30. Market closes steady at \$31. Watsons have been placed at \$16. Ices at \$166, Campbell and Moores at \$16, Bakeries at \$50. Bell's United Asbestos at \$6, and China Providents at \$10. Electrics have fallen to \$11, with sales and buyers.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Sh'ai...	\$125	\$13 p. ct. prem.—
China & Japan, ordy.	\$4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China	£8	\$29.
B. Shares	£8	\$29, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	\$10	\$16, sales & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$10, sales
China Prov. L. & M....	\$100	\$100.
China Sugar		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$38.
Dairy Farm.....	\$6	\$6, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$18.
Green Island Cement...	\$0	\$1, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$11, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$165, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$120, sellers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$165.
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$45, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$16 1/2.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	195 p. ct. prem.—
Insurance—		[\$743, buyers]
Canton	\$50	\$130 sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$80, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$54, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$97 1/2.
North-China	\$25	Tls. 170, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$1, sellers
Union	\$50	\$20, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$140, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$126 1/2, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10 75, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$46 buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$40, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$300, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donan	\$5	60 cts., sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	10 cts.
Jelebu	\$5	\$12 1/2, buyers
Queen's Mines Ld....	25c.	20 cents sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Do. B....	\$4	\$1.25, buyers
Punjom	\$6	\$7, sellers
Do. Preference..	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Raua	15s	10d \$7.
New Amoy Deck	\$6	\$20 1/2, sellers
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$100.
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$10.10, sales
China Ordinary	\$10	\$10.10, sellers
Do.	\$5	5s.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$10, sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$30 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N....	\$10	\$92, buyers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co....	\$100	\$230.
Star Ferry	\$7 1/2	\$18 1/2, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$6 1/2, sales & sellers
Do.	\$10	\$11.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 1/2	\$51, buyers
Watkin, Ld.	\$10	\$16 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$16 1/2, buyers
J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.		
VESSELS ON THE BERTH.		
For LONDON.—Alcinous (str.), Bengal (str.), Malacca (str.), Patroclus (str.), Machaon (str.), Candia (str.).		
For MARSEILLE.—Yarra (str.), Bingo Maru (str.), Normandie (str.).		
For TRIESTE.—Maria Valeria (str.).		

For BREMEN.—Prins Heinrich (str.).

For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Hector (str.), Izion (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Königsberg (str.), Siluria (str.), Bamberg (str.), Sernia (str.), Samia (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C.—Breconshire (str.).

For VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of India (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Peking (str.), Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.).

For NEW YORK.—St. Regulus (str.), Geo. T. Hay.

For SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Carlisle City (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Eastern (str.), Yawata Maru (str.), Tsinan (str.).

For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Catherine Appear (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

13. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
13. Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
13. Pathan, British str., from Amoy.
13. Oboro, Jap. torpedo-catcher, from London.
13. Chowta, British str., from Bangkok.
13. Massilia, British str., from Shanghai.
13. City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.
13. Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
13. Kutsang, British str., from Tava.
13. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
14. Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
14. Kwangleo, Chinese str., from Canton.
14. Idomenes, British str., from Liverpool.
14. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
14. Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
14. C. H. Kian, British str., from Singapore.
14. Charterhouse, British str., from Singapore.
14. Esmeralda, British sch., from Guam.
14. Santa Cruz, Amr. sch., from Yap.
14. Surprise, French gunboat, from Haiphong.
14. City of Dublin, British str., from Moji.
14. Dresden, Ger. str., from Wilhelmshaven.
14. Iburi Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
14. Irene, Chinese str., from Taku.
14. Lady Joicey, British str., from Hongay.
14. Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
14. Neas, British steamer, from Moji.
14. Prometheus, British str., from Yokohama.
14. Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
14. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
15. Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.
15. Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
15. Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
15. Fusun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
15. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
15. Hoibao, French str., from Pakhoi.
15. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
15. Kiangse, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
15. Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
16. Candia, British str., from Yokohama.
16. Esang, British str., from Chinkiang.
16. Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.
16. C. Apoor, British str., from Calcutta.
16. McLaurin, Amr. ship, from New York.
16. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
17. Devawongse, British str., from Saigon.
17. Kansu, British str., from Wuhu.
17. Weimar, German str., from Yokohama.
17. Preussen, German str., from Hamburg.
17. Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
17. Thistle, Australian bark, from Shanghai.
17. Silesia, Austrian str., from Singapore.
17. Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
17. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
17. Ifanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
17. Pelayo, British str., from Foochow.
18. Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
18. Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
18. Hector, British str., from Shanghai.
18. Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
18. Taicheung, German str., from Saigon.
18. Progress, Russian str., from Canton.
18. Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
18. Clara, German str., from Hoihow.
18. Fausang, British str., from Java.
18. Nanyang, German str., from Chefoo.
18. Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
19. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
19. Menimur, British str., from Manila.
19. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
19. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
19. Irene, Chinese str., from Canton.
19. Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
20. Choyang, British str., from Canton.

20. Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.

20. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.

20. Hating, French str., from Haiphong.

20. Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.

20. Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.

20. Hailan, French str., from Pahhoi.

20. Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.

DEPARTURES.

13. Crown of Aragon, British str., for Saigon.

13. Bamborg, German str., for Shanghai.

13. Feiyang, German str., for Hongay.

13. Michael Jebsen, German str., for Hoihow.

13. Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.

13. Energia, British str., for S. Francisco.

13. Nerite, British str., for Saigon.

14. Japan, British str., for Shanghai.

14. Massilia, British str., for Europe.

14. America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.

14. Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.

14. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.

14. Baron Ardrossan, Brit. str., for Rangoon.

14. Taifu, German str., for Saigon.

14. Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.

14. Robilla, British str., for Yokohama.

14. Daphne, German str., for Vladivostock.

14. C. H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.

14. Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.

14. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.

14. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.

14. Sikh, British str., for Tacoma.

14. Maizuru Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.

15. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.

15. Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.

15. Idomenes, British str., for Shanghai.

15. Pathan, British str., for New York.

15. Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.

15. Irene, Chinese str., for Canton.

16. Dresden, German str., for Kiaochau.

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17. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.

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